

Hafa Adai!

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Skymark Airlines Inc. has announced the launch of its first ever regular international service, a non-stop flight

» **Narita to Saipan will be airline's first regular int'l service**

connecting Narita, Japan and Saipan by the end of December 2019.

Skymark regular flight to start by end of December

Skymark, a low-cost domestic airline based in Japan, announced its first regular foray into the international market over the weekend.

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomed the announcement and expects this development to boost

See **SKYMARK** on **Page 4**

DOUBLE, DOUBLE, TOIL AND TROUBLE

The magic of Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

"Wingardium Leviosa."

Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero goes to the magical school of Hogwarts every day.

If that is not enough to have Harry

SPOTLIGHT

Potter fans on the islands "levitating" with excitement, the fact that Deleon Guerrero is also Hogwarts' first Chamorro student should do it.

Saipan native Deleon Guerrero was recently cast as an actor with Universal Orlando en-

See **MAGIC** on **Page 4**



MANAGAHA-BOUND

Young members of the Carolinian/Refaluwasch community peer at Managaha Island from the ferry they were on last Saturday as they sail to Managaha Island to take part in the Chief Aghurubw commemoration. Every September, the CNMI celebrates the life of Chief Aghurubw, and the journey of the first group of Carolinians that settled in the Northern Marianas 204 years ago.

IVA MAURIN

Story on **Page 7**

NMI govt will meet PSS' 25% mandate

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government would reportedly remit today the remaining funds owed the Public School System, enabling the government to comply with the 25% mandate of the CNMI Constitution for PSS.

See **NMI** on **Page 4**

IPI says it has 650 construction workers

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International Limited (CNMI) reports it currently has 650 construction workers working on its resort hotel in Garapan.

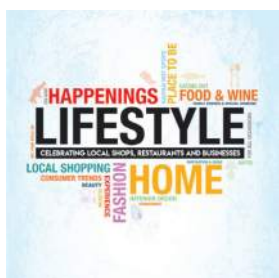
See **IPI** on **Page 4**



Saipan native Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero is a Hogwarts School choirmaster at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Universal in Orlando, Florida.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Today's *Saipan Tribune* comes with a pullout supplement focusing on island living.

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NATION

The House took their first steps in the impeachment investigation of President Trump.

PAGE 23



ASIA

A parade by China's secretive military will offer a look at its rapidly developing arsenal.

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Local

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios poses with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council officials and board members at the proclamation of October as Humanities Month at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Wednesday.

IVA MAURIN

OCTOBER IS HUMANITIES MONTH

Telling the Marianas story from a local perspective

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"We are Pacific islanders and part of humanities is that we have to value who we are."

—Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios

To celebrate the history of the people of the Marianas, the community is being called upon to become storytellers and to share personal experiences of the past and the present, to chronicle life on the islands from the perspective of its own people.

This call for sharing the living history of the Marianas

comes as the whole month of October is celebrated as Humanities Month.

At the proclamation signing last week, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stressed the humanities' role in fostering a better understanding of history, and for enhancing and enriching the lives of all people of the Marianas.

"Humanities helps us better understand our history, cultures, languages, political institutions, and social values," Palacios said, "and allows us to examine our past and present experiences in light of the values and beliefs that we

have traditionally relied upon for guidance and direction."

Palacios also sang praises to the people in the community who have shaped humanities on the islands.

"We have so many people in our community who have contributed through the years, and continue to contribute, to this worthwhile purpose," Palacios said. "We have 500 Sails, we have Indigenous Affairs, we have the Carolinian Affairs, we have the Refaluwasch, we have all kinds of cultural advocacy that tell [our story]."

Palacios also challenged

the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to be the umbrella that will stitch together the different facets of the CNMI story.

"I think it would be a great, great project, and a great challenge if the Humanities Council could be the umbrella to put all these things together...because there are a lot of stories. I'm very happy to see a lot of us are starting to awaken to telling our story. I have been wanting to really read...our perspective of our history."

In response, NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan said the idea of the council

somehow helping these individual groups, or individuals, form a collective "is an interesting concept."

"We represent the broader perspective of what these individual groups in our communities do to exert their identity, assert their identity, and call on our community for tolerance to help celebrate and promote awareness of their differences and similarities," he added.

NMHC will lead the month-long celebration of the humanities through educational programs that relate to the indigenous culture, as well as the needs and interests of the community.

Upcoming events include The Essence of Po: Traditional Knowledge of the Refaluwasch People on Oct. 8; Na Lala Fino' Chamorro! on Oct. 9; Garapan Heritage Trail Tour on Oct. 11; Sengebau Poetry Competition on Oct. 15; Humanitini Featuring Microchild on Oct. 16; Governor's Humanities Awards on Oct. 24; and the Amalawa Mwalilil Refaluwasch! on Oct. 29.

For more information about the events, contact the council at 235-4785 or email info@nmhcouncil.org.

CNMI educators plan to march tomorrow

A group of educators that call themselves CNMI-Ed will be hosting a peaceful march tomorrow that will focus on their concerns for public education in the CNMI, specifically the 25% share that the Public School System should get as its share of the CNMI's annual general revenue.

The group is inviting parents, students, community members, and elected leaders to join them for the march that will start at the Oleai pavilions and end at the Minachom Atdao. Registration will begin at 3pm at the Oleai pavilions, and the march will begin at 4pm, and interested participants are encouraged to wear a purple, green, or white shirt. At the Minachom Atdao, a townhall meeting will be conducted involving the concerns raised by educators.

According to a CNMI-Ed letter to the editor (*See Page 9*), the current manner in which the 25% of general revenue is being determined after earmarks provides little or no assurance that PSS is adequately funded. The group believes that the intent of the guaranteed 25% minimum should be just that—a minimum requirement to provide a quality public education to CNMI students. (*Marc A. Venus*)

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Former PSS awardee arrested for alleged domestic violence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A Public School System awardee in 2017 was arrested last week for allegedly punching his common-law wife in a dispute over cigarettes.

Faustino Mad Tmilchol, 57, was arrested and brought to Superior Court Friday for his initial appearance on charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The common-law wife told police that she fears for herself and their children's safety and claims that Tmilchol has been abusive throughout their 20-year relationship.

The victim said it was her fourth time to call the police for help against Tmilchol.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed the defendant to post a \$500 cash plus \$9,500 in unsecured bond for his temporary release.

According to police detective Myron O. Laniyo's report, the alleged victim called the police for help last Thursday at 8am.

The police officer came upon the victim at her house in As Lito. She was crying next to her car, with some children. The officer observed a damaged car door handle and a brick on the ground.

Police then arrested Tmilchol.

The victim told police that their argument started last Wednesday when she forgot to buy cigarettes for Tmilchol. She accused Tmilchol of slapping her, punching her in the right ear, and threatening to break the windshield of their car with a brick if she does not open the car. A neighbor came

and stopped Tmilchol from throwing the brick at the car.

During this time, the children kept trying to stop Tmilchol.

In 2017, PSS presented Tmilchol with Trades and

Maintenance of the Year award at Saipan Southern

High School. He is currently head of SSSH maintenance.

Man indicted for alleged docu fraud

A federal grand jury indicted last Thursday a person for allegedly conspiring with another to illegally produce an identification document.

The indictment charged Youzhe Piao with one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

Homeland Security Investigation agents served the summons to Piao last Friday to appear in court. His first appearance hearing will be on Oct. 11 at 1:30pm in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

According to the indictment, Piao committed the offense between May 13, 2017, and May 16, 2017.

The indictment did not specifically mention what kind of identification document was produced. No other details were also stated.

Lately, HSI has been arresting overstaying Chinese tourists for allegedly driving illegal taxicabs using CNMI driver's licenses that were obtained through fraud. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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9H084 Kona Chalk White	\$2,000	\$21,995
9H099 Kona Chalk White	\$2,000	\$21,995
9H009 Kona Lagoon Blue	\$2,000	\$21,995

Tucson	SAVINGS	PRICE
9H087 Tucson Aqua Blue	\$2,000	\$23,995
9H095 Tucson Sage Brown	\$2,000	\$23,995
9H096 Tucson Gemstone Red	\$2,000	\$23,995
9H105 Tucson White Cream	\$2,000	\$23,995
9H107 Tucson Black	\$2,000	\$23,995

Veloster	SAVINGS	PRICE
0H001 Veloster Ultimate Coupe Sunset Orange	\$2,000	\$26,995
0H002 Veloster Ultimate Coupe Chalk White	\$2,000	\$26,995

Elantra	SAVINGS	PRICE
0H022 Elantra Sport Auto Fluid Metal	\$2,000	\$24,995
0H016 Elantra Sport Auto Polar White	\$2,000	\$24,995
0H012 Elantra Sport Manual Iron Gray	\$2,000	\$24,995
0H013 Elantra SE Intense Blue	\$3,000	\$19,995
0H014 Elantra SE Polar White	\$3,000	\$19,995
0H015 Elantra SE Denim Blue	\$3,000	\$19,995




Mirage G4	SAVINGS	PRICE
9M117 Mirage G4 Blue	\$2,000	\$16,995
9M119 Mirage G4 White Pearl	\$2,000	\$16,995

Mirage SE	SAVINGS	PRICE
9M088 Mirage SE Sunrise Orange	\$2,000	\$16,995
9M102 Mirage SE Titanium Gray	\$2,000	\$16,995
9M103 Mirage SE White Pearl	\$2,000	\$16,995

Outlander Sport	SAVINGS	PRICE
9M111 Outlander Sport SEL Titanium Gray	\$2,000	\$23,995
9M112 Outlander Sport SEL Orient Red	\$2,000	\$23,995
9M113 Outlander Sport SEL White Pearl	\$2,000	\$23,995

Outlander SE	SAVINGS	PRICE
9M068 Outlander SE Titanium Gray	\$3,000	\$25,995
9M069 Outlander SE White Pearl	\$3,000	\$25,995
9M076 Outlander SE Black Pearl	\$3,000	\$25,995

Eclipse Cross	SAVINGS	PRICE
9M072 Eclipse Cross White Pearl	\$5,000	\$23,995
9M099 Eclipse Cross Silver	\$5,000	\$23,995
9M100 Eclipse Cross Bronze	\$5,000	\$23,995
9M101 Eclipse Cross New Red	\$5,000	\$23,995




Mazda CX-3 Sport	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D152 Mazda CX-3 Sport Snowflake White	\$2,000	\$21,995
9D153 Mazda CX-3 Sport Eternal Blue	\$2,000	\$21,995
9D154 Mazda CX-3 Sport Machine Gray	\$2,000	\$21,995
9D155 Mazda CX-3 Sport Ceramic	\$2,000	\$21,995

Mazda6 Sport	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D156 Mazda 6 Sport Snowflake White	\$2,000	\$24,995
9D157 Mazda 6 Sport Machine Gray	\$2,000	\$24,995

CX-5 Sport	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D161 Mazda CX-5 Sport Snowflake White Pearl	\$2,000	\$23,995
9D162 Mazda CX-5 Sport Jet Black	\$2,000	\$23,995
9D165 Mazda CX-5 Sport Machine Gray	\$2,000	\$23,995
9D167 Mazda CX-5 Sport Soul Red	\$2,000	\$23,995



CX-5 GT	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D111 Mazda CX-5 GT Soul Red	\$3,000	\$28,995

MX-5	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D168 Mazda MX-5 BBS PKG Jet Black	\$4,000	\$39,995

CX-9 Sport	SAVINGS	PRICE
9D169 Mazda CX-9 Sport	\$4,000	\$29,995
9D170 Mazda CX-9 Sport	\$4,000	\$29,995

CX-9 GT	SAVINGS	PRICE
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2-year license for Brown OK'd

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission approved Thursday the application of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Mark Brown for a two-year Casino Key Employee License but with certain conditions.

Brown is currently under a provisional license under the CCC and the license is set to expire by Monday, Sept. 30, 2019.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and CCC chair Juan M. Sablan first

opposed granting the license, as there were issues regarding the clarification of the documents provided to the commission. Deleon Guerrero pointed out that the commission needs clarity regarding concerns about IPI's compliance with hiring U.S. workers and the taxability of the rolling volume to be paid off as promised by Brown.

Another issue with the application was that Brown must update the commission of the casino's chart of roles and responsibilities.

Deleon Guerrero said that the CCC was actually about

to approve Brown's application but, as time passed, more issues came up, leading some casino commission members to oppose the application.

IPI general counsel Philip J. Tydingco argued that Brown's license should not be dependent on the clarification of documents the commission is asking for. Tydingco said that in every meeting, IPI presents clarification when requested and believes that Brown should get the license.

Sablan said the CCC needs about 60 days to communicate with IPI and Brown regarding the clarification of the documents provided. That means

Brown has about two to three months, he added.

CCC secretary Ramon Muña Dela Cruz moved the motion to approve Brown's application, with the stipulation of making the necessary changes within 60 days. Sablan, vice chair Joseph C. Reyes, and Public Affairs & Media Relations Diego Maratita Songao agreed to provide Brown the license with the stipulation; treasurer Alvaro A. Santos was excused from the meeting and did not participate in the vote. The CCC will deliberate on this matter in December, which marks the end of the 60-day period.

IPI

From Page 1

IPI assistant vice president of construction Eric Poon reported to the Commonwealth Casino Commission last Thursday that IPI continues to interview workers from Taiwan, Thailand, Mongolia, and other countries.

Poon reported that 494 of the workers have H-2B visas and these workers are from Mongolia, Thailand, Australia, Croatia, Italy, or Taiwan. Poon told the CCC that work to bring in a second batch of Mongolian H-2B workers is in progress but there is no definite count on how many

of these workers will finally come here. And they are hoping to have these workers in by October.

Reporting on the current status of the Imperial Pacific Resort hotel, Poon said the hotel's main lobby and east wing VIP gaming rooms' interior fit out works have been completed. The hotel's east wing suites and corridors have built-in furniture and mirrors installed, while marble stone and carpet installations are nearly complete.

The hotel's guest and service elevators have been completed and are scheduled for a final inspection and certification. Lastly, the hotel's northern wing's fit out work

is in progress and is projected to be complete by the end of December. IPI forecasts the resort hotel to be completed by the end of this year.

Poon said that IPI's next construction phase is its Tower Hotel, which is currently in progress and is forecasted to be completed by the end of June 2020. He said that the building's façade cladding is in progress and that the hotel tower's interior fit out pre-construction phase is in progress.

For external works, Poon reports that the north forecourt landscape builder's work is complete. The main water feature installation is also complete, while the second-

ary water feature installation is in progress. Lastly, earth work for the resort hotel's main swimming pool is still in progress.

Poon said the hotel's east wing has also undergone separate inspections from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Public Works and are waiting for conditional permits.

When asked about the villas to be built on Capital Hill, Poon told the CCC that their goal is to get the conditional permits for the hotel and he will discuss with IPI chair Mark Brown and the management team about the construction and staffing of the villas.

NMI

From Page 1

Finance Secretary David Atalig said Thursday afternoon that the central government would soon be in compliance with the constitutional mandate of 25% of revenues for the annual PSS budget with the remittance of the remaining \$1.7 million that is scheduled today.

Atalig explained that the central government owes PSS \$7.78 million.

He noted that the central government would be paying the Group Health and Life

Insurance premiums of PSS, which amounts to \$2.9 million, and Chapters 2 and 7 taxes for the system, which totals \$2.15 million.

"We came about with all the obligations PSS owes that the central government will absorb in offsetting their debt for Chapter 2, Chapter 7, taxes, FICA, GHLI premiums," Atalig explained, adding that PSS was behind on these payments for a number of pay periods.

"...I am going to pay for their pay periods that they haven't paid yet to offset for the amounts that [the central government] owes," he added.

Atalig said his office already remitted \$1 million to the state education agency last Wednesday, bringing the balance further to only \$1.7 million to satisfy the constitutional mandate. He noted that the \$1.7 million would be remitted to PSS today.

"Taking all the budget, and the 25%, we would have, as an administration, complied with the 25% total budget," he said. "We are in agreement [with PSS] for now that we will take care of what is on the books as 25% of the adjusted budget."

"We understand that it has been a challenge for all of us during this typhoon recovery

period. Ensuring the 25% for fiscal year 2019 to PSS was a priority that we have been working on for months," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in a statement, also expressing his appreciation to key PSS and Board of Education members.

PSS was supposed to receive \$42 million in fiscal year 2019. However, due to austerity measures, their budget was slashed several times until it was less than the 25% constitutional mandate, with the government prioritizing the recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, after both Saipan and Tinian were devastated in late October 2018.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

arrivals from Japan to the Marianas.

"We are pleased to see a firm and continued commitment from them to continue all the preparations and meet all Japan and U.S. requirements to begin regular flight service to the Marianas," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo in a press statement.

Skymark said the new service between Narita and Saipan, and between Narita and Nagoya (Chubu) will begin by the end of December. The regular service between Narita and Saipan will be once

daily, with a flight time of approximately three and a half hours, while service between Narita and Nagoya will be twice weekly.

In the press release announcing the new flights, Sky-mark said they look forward to offering customers with the experience to explore the wonders of the CNMI. The airline said this will accelerate travel demand and mutual exchange between Japan and the CNMI.

Skymark said preparations for the two new service are now underway.

Skymark will announce as soon as they are confirmed further information on inaugural flight dates, schedules, reservation opening dates, and others.

Iakopo said that negotiations between Sky-mark and the CNMI have been moving forward for over a year now and that this announcement of regular flight service is one step closer to launch date.

Iakopo said they have been eagerly awaiting the commencement of these flights and that, based on the success of Sky-mark's previous charter flights, MVA is confident this regular service will increase Japanese arrivals to the CNMI.

"We look forward to it and are planning our marketing and promotions to support the launch," she said.

From March to September this year, Sky-mark operated 19 charter flights to Saipan.

Early this month, a Sky-mark official stated they are still trying to obtain official regulatory approval to operate regular daily flights to Saipan.

Sky-mark international flight preparation office assistant general manager John Furuya told *Saipan Tribune* they are doing their best to get such approval so they can have their regular operation at the soonest.

Last March 22, Sky-mark made a historic touchdown on Saipan with a chartered B737-800 plane carrying 173 passengers, making it the first Japanese carrier to fly directly to Saipan since Japan Airlines withdrew from the CNMI in 2005.



Saipan native Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, from San Vicente, started her acting career at 8 years old, when she first appeared onstage in *Annie Jr* with Friends of the Arts. Now 25, Deleon Guerrero is working her magic as choirmaster at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Universal in Orlando, Florida. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAGIC

From Page 1

tainment, as a choirmaster at the theme park called Wizarding World of Harry Potter. The choirmaster conducts the Hogwarts School choir and welcomes people into Hogsmeade Village.

"[I believe] I'm the first Chamorro Hogwarts student!" Deleon Guerrero said. "I went from being a little creative kid [on] Saipan to working for two of the top entertainment companies in the world, at the two most visited theme parks in the world!"

Deleon Guerrero, who lived in San Vicente until she moved to the U.S. mainland for college, started acting at a very young age.

"I come from a very musical family, so singing was my first love. But once I stepped foot onstage in *Annie Jr* with Friends of the Arts, I was sold. I knew I wanted to be an actor since I was 8 years old. But, I had a lot of work to do."

She received her certificate in Acting in Musical Theatre from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England in 2014, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting in 2016, and is working on her master's degree in Arts and Cultural Management with an emphasis in Advocacy and Outreach.

Aside from being cast as a Hogwarts choirmaster, Deleon Guerrero is also a scare actor at Halloween Horror Nights, prowling the streets of Universal and scaring the living daylight out of people. She has been an extra in several major movies, and also works as a tour guide and costum-

ing person.

The gigs did not come easy to her, though. Deleon Guerrero landed them by doing what every actor that has come before her has done: audition, audition, audition. This Saipan-born actor has auditioned at almost every theme park and regional professional theater in the Central Florida region since moving there in 2016.

Racism and depression are also among the issues she faced.

"I've faced racism. I've faced prejudice. I've faced severe depression. I've faced financial troubles. I've faced homesickness. I've faced self-hatred. I've faced anxiety. I've faced trauma. I've faced complete exhaustion in every sense of the word."

Deleon Guerrero said that most of these things are ongoing battles that she is fighting.

"I continue to look these things in the eye because I have three very special things: an amazing support system (God, my mom, my family, friends, teachers), self-love, and passion. Without the love and support of these people, I probably wouldn't be who or where I am today. I mean that wholeheartedly."

As for the people back here, at a place she calls home, Deleon Guerrero has one special message: Do not be afraid and doubtful of what you have to offer the world. You can start late, be different, and still succeed.

Editor's Note: This article is part of "Spotlight," a recurring series featuring CNMI personalities. To suggest a person to feature in this section, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.

CHCC upgrades water system

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has made upgrades to the Saipan hospital's reverse osmosis water filtration system, allowing the Commonwealth Health Center to double the amount of water it produces daily.

Warren Villagomez, director of the CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program, said this upgrade also allows CHCC to manage its utility cost and provide patients with safer water.

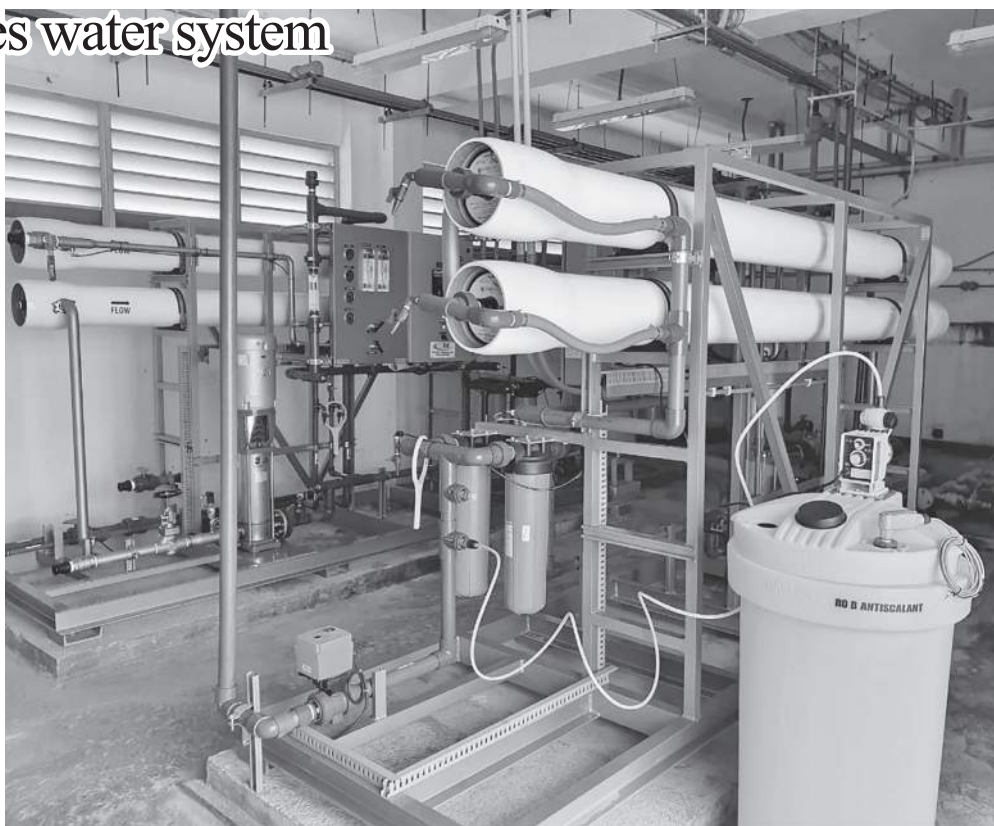
The reverse osmosis system is used to purify water from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water wells, making it potable, or safe to consume.

This new system is able to produce 36,000 gallons of water per day, double the amount of the old system while reducing the amount of water that is wasted, which had been an issue with the former reverse osmosis system.

"This new R.O. system is way more efficient and is safer for use, as the former system is more than 30 years old," Villagomez said.

This new system is compact and therefore frees up space for other hospital systems.

Another benefit that this up-



This newly installed reverse osmosis water filtration system is able to produce 36,000 gallons of water per day, which is double the amount the previous system produced for the Commonwealth Health Center. The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. reported that the installation of the new system was completed earlier this month.

grade creates is an opportunity to incur less utility charges, as the system has an automatic shutdown sequence once it has created an enough amount of water. "This upgrade helps the hospital save money on power fees," he said.

Villagomez said that CHCC ordered the equipment last February, received

the upgraded equipment last August, and began to install the new system shortly after. The equipment was procured in coordination with the Governor's Office and totaled around \$220,000 using Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Community Chest Fund.

He said that they were able

to complete the installation of the new system earlier this month, and maintenance and other staff have undergone training with the new system in order to keep the system running safely and efficiently.

Villagomez said that CHCC is currently working on projects for CHC's reservoirs and its storage facility.

MARC A. VENUS

Over 170 students graduate from NMTI

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute certified over 170 individuals last Friday during the school's graduation ceremony at the Koblerville Gymnasium. Certificates of completion were awarded to students who completed the trade school's GED program (a high school program for adults), plus automotive technology, culinary arts, construction trades, and hotel and restaurant operations programs.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said this means these students now have the opportunity and are empowered to join the Commonwealth's workforce.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring, who was the keynote speaker, focused on encouraging students to stay on their chosen path, to be prepared for the challenges that life will throw at them, and to take action—being the future of the CNMI who will play a vital role not only in the hotel industry but in other industries in the CNMI.


"Start now, start with fear, start with pain, start with

doubt, start with handshaking...start but don't stop and keep going," Herring told the students.

Grace Suda, who received her GED and was chosen by the graduating students to speak on their behalf, thanked NMTI for giving her a second chance and promised to keep striving and aim to build a profession in culinary arts.


NMTI board chair John Oliver Gonzales thanked the CNMI government for providing NMTI the support needed to "advocate for the future of the CNMI" through Public Law 20-92, which made NMTI a government entity. Gonzales also thanked the Public School System for opening its doors and providing its students the opportunity to see what NMTI has to offer for them, as a combined total of 111 high school students from Kagan High School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School received certificates under the Hotel and Restaurant Operations program.

"Failure is no longer an option, success is our ultimate goals and it is what matters," Gonzales told the graduates.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-040

Waste characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Waste characterization and disposal - CUC Saipan power plant 1 and Rota power plant, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the terms of Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory **site visit and pre-bid meeting** is scheduled on **October 10, 2019 at 10:00am (ChST)** at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "IFB-19-040: Waste Characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.


Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 14, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Pranhakara, Utility Coordinator/ ATMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-036

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-19-036, Security Guard Services**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on October 25, 2019**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior - christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Large chunk of border wall funding diverted from tiny Guam

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—President Donald Trump is raising a large chunk of the money for his border wall with Mexico by deferring several military construction projects slated for Guam, a strategic hub for U.S. forces in the Pacific.

This may disrupt plans to move Marines to Guam from Japan and to modernize munitions storage for the Air Force.

About 7% of the funds for the \$3.6 billion wall are being diverted from eight projects in the U.S. territory, a key spot in the U.S. military’s efforts to deter North Korea and counter China’s growing military.

The administration has vowed it’s only delaying the spending, not canceling it. But Democrats in Congress, outraged over Trump’s use of an emergency order for the wall, have promised they won’t approve money to revive the projects.

“The fact is, by literally taking that money after it had been put in place and using it for something else, you now put those projects in jeopardy,” said Carl Baker, executive director of Pacific Forum, a Honolulu-based foreign

policy think tank.

The Senate on Wednesday passed a measure blocking Trump from raiding the military construction budget for the wall. The Democratic-controlled House passed the bill on Friday, but Trump is expected to veto it as he did with an identical measure in March.

The tiny island of Guam holds a naval base with fast attack submarines and an Air Force base with bombers that rotate in from the mainland.

The U.S. currently plans to start moving 5,000 Marines there from Okinawa in southern Japan around 2025. This is part of a decades-long effort by Tokyo and Washington to relieve the congested Japanese island’s burden of hosting half the U.S. forces stationed in Japan. The total cost of relocating the Marines is \$8.7 billion, of which Japan is paying \$3.1 billion.

The projects put on hold by the border wall are a small share of this total, yet critical to the relocation.

There’s \$56 million to build a well system that will supply most of the water to be used by a new Marine base. The area’s existing water supply is inadequate to meet the needs of the transferred troops.

There’s also a \$50 million

live-fire training range and a \$52 million munitions storage facility. Documents about the projects the military provided to Congress say the Marines won’t leave Okinawa until replacement facilities in Guam are ready. The documents say failure to complete these two projects could delay or prevent the Marines from moving.

Guam activists opposed to the live-fire range said the delay will give them time to study ancient settlements found in the area. They said it would be irresponsible to move forward on projects that would destroy cultural sites and cause irreversible environmental damage when there’s so much uncertainty about the relocation.

“Our organization is conflicted about the means in which the pause was achieved because these are two instances of colonial injustice, one impacting the other,” the group Prutehi Litekyan: Save Ritidian said in a statement.

The U.S. reassured Japan immediately after the announcement that it would stick to the existing timeline.

“We have received explanation from the U.S. side about the shifting of the budget that it will not affect the planned movement of Marines on Okinawa to Guam, and that

the U.S. government commitment to the realignment plan is unchanged,” then-Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters earlier this month.

Discussions to reduce the U.S. presence on Okinawa began in the mid-1990s after the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl by three U.S. servicemen sparked mass demonstrations. The allies in 2006 said they would send Marines to Guam by 2014, a deadline that slipped as they revised plans.

Although Okinawa makes up less than 1 percent of Japan’s land space, it hosts about half of the 54,000 American troops stationed in Japan and is home to 64 percent of the land used by the U.S. bases in the country under a bilateral security treaty.

Jeffrey Hornung, a researcher at the RAND Corporation, a public policy research institute, said even before the latest development, some Okinawa residents were frustrated with the lack of progress in moving the Marines.

“The fact is, the longer that the projects on Guam are delayed, that means the longer that there’s not going to be any forward movement on some aspects of moving the Marines off Okinawa,” Hornung said. “And this all comes from taking money to build a border wall.”

Diverted spending also will affect the Air Force, including \$45.1 million for two projects to update 70-year-old munitions storage.

The Air Force has been rotating bombers—the B-2 stealth bomber as well as the B-1 and B-52—through Guam since in 2004 to compensate for U.S. forces sent from the Asia-Pacific region to fight in the Middle East. In 2017, the U.S. dispatched a B-1 bomber from Guam to the Korean peninsula as a show of force after North Korea accelerated its efforts to test intercontinental ballistic missiles and expand its nuclear weapons program.

Project documents say existing facilities won’t adequately support the mis-

sion of the 36th Munitions Squadron on Guam. They say upgrades are needed to correct a faulty door design, address earth cover lost during typhoons and house new long-range air-to-ground precision missiles.

U.S. Rep. Ed Case, a Democrat from Hawaii who sits on the House appropriations subcommittee for military construction, said he’s concerned the administration diverted so much from Guam, given the island is key to the nation’s defense posture in the Pacific.

But he said rewarding these funds in another budget would set an “incredibly dangerous precedent.”

“That is a very difficult situation because these are priority projects. However, if we simply said yes to this president on that basis, which he is very much hoping that we will do, then we have essentially said to him and any future president that Congress’ role as the responsible branch of government for appropriations no longer counts,” Case said.

Military trainings set

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Guam Army National Guard I-294th Infantry Regiment will conduct training on Oct. 5-6 at Radio Barrigada, from 7am to 12pm.

Coastal Riverine Group 1 will conduct training today, Sept. 30, from 8am to 11am in Outer Apra Harbor.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-3, from 11am to 11:55pm at the Dandan-Malojloj training

site in Inarajan.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517, Warning Area 12, Warning Area 11 Alpha Bravo, and an alternative site during the following dates and times:



- From midnight to 11:59pm, Sept. 30 through Oct. 6 at W-517 and W-12
- From 6am to 7pm, Oct. 1-2, at the alternative site
- From midnight to 11:59pm, Oct. 1-2, at W-11AB

W-517 is activated. It begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

All vessels are advised to remain 100 nautical-miles outside of the training areas.

Galvez Banks and Santa Rosa Reef will be closed for the duration of training.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-19-037

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu, Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 19-006

NMC TEMPORARY BUILDING REPAIR PROJECT

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed bids for the Temporary Repair And Repurposing Project, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O-1 commencing Friday, September 27, 2019, between the hours of 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Submissions are due no later than 2:00 P.m., October 11, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: May request a copy of the IFB by email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**THE FINANCIAL &)
INSURANCE SERVICES)
GROUP, INC.,)
Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION
-v-) NO. 09-0458
Donald C. Camacho,)
Defendant.**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document no. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Total area of the property: 859 square meters

Known encumbrances: none

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Friday, October 25, 2019, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale: The terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of September, 2019:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Refalúwasch community gathers on Managaha to honor Aghurubw



The Carolinian/Refalúwasch community present a wreath of flowers at the statue of Chief Aghurubw last Saturday on Managaha Island.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The celebration of Cultural Heritage Month this month continued last Saturday, with the Carolinian/Refalúwasch community gathering on Managaha Island last Saturday to pay tribute to a legendary leader, Chief Aghurubw, who is buried on the island.

The event is the 49th annual commemoration to recognize the leadership of Aghurubw, who led his people from the Caroline Islands 204 years and resettled in the Northern Mari-

ana in 1815. At that time, the Caroline Islands had just been devastated by a typhoon.

A monument of Aghurubw was erected on Managaha Island on Sept. 18, 1970, in his memory.

Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, a descendant of Aghurubw, and president of the Chief Aghurubw Foundation, said the monument not only represents the chief but also underscores his significance to the Carolinian community, also known as the Refalúwasch.

"He represents the settlement of the people," Ogumoro-Uludong said. "Carolinians have been known to be great navigators—navigat-

ing, sailing, trading all around the region"

"He led the first group of [Carolinians] to actually settle here in the Marianas and that's how we now have Chamorros, who have been here for thousands of years, and the Carolinians who settled and are now also recognized as persons of Northern Marianas descent," he added.

Aghurubw Foundation vice president Mark Rabauliman added that the occasion is also a chance for the Carolinian elders to interact with the younger ones and be able to pass on the stories of Aghurubw and the early settlers.

"It's a matter of embracing our identity, recognizing it, so that [future] generations could understand and identify who they are," Rabauliman added.

Next year, with the occasion's 50th anniversary, the celebration is going to be even bigger. Carolinian Affairs Office executive director John Tagabuel encourages the community to continue attending the celebration.

"Chief Aghurubw is the one who started everything for the Carolinian people, [who] brought us here," Tagabuel said. "We encourage everybody to respect the man that started it, and to come and celebrate with us."

Expect more from the CAO this October with the Pwo Ceremony, the highest blessing to becoming a traditional navigator, and the Indigenous Expo on Oct. 14. For more information on these upcoming events, contact the Carolinian Affairs Office at 234-6385.

ATTENTION: 2001 - 2016 HONDA & ACURA OWNERS

Urgent Airbag Safety Recall



- CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS -



You and your passenger's safety may be at risk! Sharp metal fragments from airbag explosions have severely **INJURED** and **KILLED** vehicle occupants

FREE AIRBAG REPAIRS



ATTENTION HONDA & ACURA DRIVERS:

Please be aware that we have a safety recall under way to repair airbags, at **no cost to you**, in certain Honda and Acura vehicles.

If you have a Honda or Acura vehicle that is within the year range listed below, please contact us to see if your vehicle needs this urgent **FREE** repair. Thank you from the Honda Family.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a **FREE** repair at a time that is most convenient for you, contact Joeten Motors at (670) 234-5568.



CHECK IF YOUR VEHICLE IS AFFECTED
visit:
recalls.honda.com
or
recalls.acura.com



✓ **QUICK**

✓ **FREE**

✓ **EASY**



AIRBAG RECALL



At Honda we care about your safety.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB 19-CHCC/DENTAL-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 01, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

"DENTAL VAN – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – DENTAL"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN NOW DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB 19-CHCC/ELC-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

"LEASE VEHICLE - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY (ELC)"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 19-DPW-140

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Luis Javin Crisostomo Untalan
P.O. Box 500554
(670) 783-2815

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of)
the Petition for) FCD CN CIVIL
the Change of) ACTION
Name of:) NO. 19-0377
Luis Javin) **NOTICE OF**
Crisostomo) **HEARING**
Untalan)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 10/07, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

As Greta says, we should listen to the scientists and push for a zero-carbon economy



Youth climate change activist Greta Thunberg, left, prepares to speak at a House Foreign Affairs Committee subcommittee hearing on climate change Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington. AP

Ridiculed by cynics and mocked by President Donald Trump, who made only a brief appearance at the U.N.'s climate summit, the Swedish teen expressed in the strongest terms her generation's frustration with the global effort to counter the effects of the human epoch on Earth's atmosphere. In presenting members of Congress with a copy of a disturbing report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, she said, "I don't want you to listen to me. I want you to listen to the scientists."

While some adults dismiss the pleadings of this teenage girl as hysterical—just as they criticized the Parkland student activists who demanded stronger firearms regulations after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida—many others are listening and nodding agreement. She inspired last week's student protests of government and corporate inaction, and former President Barack Obama fist-bumped her and called her "one of our planet's greatest advocates."

They understand that climate change presents a grave and complex threat to the quality of life of future generations. Surveys of Americans have clearly shown growing acceptance that human activity—primarily, our use of fossil fuels—is the major cause of climate change, and a recent poll conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 40% of us now believe climate change to be a "crisis," up from under 25% five years ago.

In Maryland, the latest Goucher Poll finds nearly 70% of the state's residents agreeing that climate change is mostly caused by human activity. That represents an increase of 10 percentage points in just the last two years and suggests that the reality of climate change, either as an explained phenomenon or as an observed one, has hit home. Informed Marylanders know what scientists say: Without accelerated efforts to reduce carbon emissions in major ways, without transforming

See GRETA on Next Page



"WE APPEAR TO BE IN HOT WATER."

Get ready for a nasty fight

Many Americans never wanted it to come to this. Moving to impeach a U.S. president is not an act for which we should be proud. Impeachment proceedings, as history has shown, present America at its worst.

Of course, there are those of us who deplore Donald Trump's politics. We cringe at the sound of his voice, knowing that the words coming out of his mouth likely are untrue. Though we suspect that he has broken some laws of the Constitution, we knew that impeachment proceedings would only lead to more chaos.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's call on Tuesday to begin an impeachment inquiry based on "the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections" put us on a treacherous road from which we cannot turn back.

If the benefits of impeachment did not outweigh the risks before, Trump's recent interactions with Ukraine tipped the scale all the way over. Trump left us no choice. He needs to go or, at the very least, be held accountable as much as possible.

With the investigation revving up, all we can do now is hope for the best. And with this callous president, that means hoping that America emerges from it intact.

Trump plays dirty, and this is a battle he cannot afford to lose.

He will see to it that this impeachment inquiry becomes the nastiest political fight of our lifetime. In his eyes, former presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton were weak. If he goes down, he is willing to take the entire country with him.

An impeachment article against Trump likely would easily make its way through the Democrat-controlled House, but getting the Republican-controlled Senate to even bring it to trial is much more challenging.

In the end, Trump could claim victory, and all of the things many Americans hate most about him could be used to propel him to a second term. The thought of four more years of Trump in the White House keeps us awake at night. America, we fear, could not survive it.

So we must prepare ourselves for more political infighting that will pull our divided nation further apart. We must brace for an onslaught of reprehensible tweets, self-absorbed lies and vile attacks by Trump's most vicious supporters.

Even when the articles of impeachment are officially drawn up, there is no getting around the fact that the basis of the inquiry will remain ambiguous and open to interpretation. That provides Trump with an opening to declare no wrongdoing.

Hours after releasing a memo summarizing his July 25 telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which helped fuel newest calls for impeachment, Trump labeled the inquiry "the single greatest witch hunt in American history." We have heard that before.

Nearly his entire first term was overshadowed by an inves-

By **DAHLEEN GLANTON**

Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



tigation into whether his campaign conspired with Russia to defeat Hillary Clinton in 2016. Months after Robert Mueller's report outlined the investigation into several acts of alleged obstruction, Trump is accused of enlisting Ukraine to help his reelection.

It seems clear from the rough transcript that Trump asked the Ukrainian president to do him a "favor" by launching a corruption investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden, his 2020 rival, as well as Biden's son Hunter.

Obviously, Trump didn't think releasing such a damaging summary of his conversation would prove his innocence. But that was not the intent. The White House summary of his conversation, which fails to show him engaging in an explicit quid pro quo with a foreign government, provided a distraction that could be used to rally his supporters against Democrats.

Trump and his surrogates are experts at diverting attention away from his wrongdoing. In a mass email sent out Wednesday to supporters, Trump's campaign called the Democratic impeachment effort "a total smear job."

"I've done nothing wrong. Trust me. You saw the transcript," he wrote in all capital letters.

His surrogates took to the airwaves to declare that no advantages were offered or granted in return for the Ukrainian president's efforts. Therefore, they argued, no laws had been broken.

The memo of his conversation gave those who want to believe in Trump something to latch onto. And this time, he did something he rarely does. Trump made this fight not just about him—but about anyone who supports him.

"It's time to set something straight once and for all," the email said. "The Democrats' constant personal attacks, vicious lies, and now these baseless impeachment attacks have never had anything to do with me."

"Their goal has always been to silence YOU. They want to steal YOUR voice and YOUR vote."

"This is only the beginning of yet ANOTHER nasty Witch Hunt against me, and we need to fight back BIGGER and STRONGER than ever before."

With that, he launched an "Official Impeachment Defense Task Force," asking "patriots" to contribute at least \$5 to join

See FIGHT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Like Watergate all over again?

Echoes of Watergate could be heard in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's announcement Tuesday that the House of Representatives will begin a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. But how similar is this path to what the nation experienced 45 years ago?

In 1974, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee approved three articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon as a result of the Watergate scandal, leading him to become the only president to resign. Now Democrats hope their impeachment probe will force Trump from office over allegations that he pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to give him political dirt on former Vice President Joe Biden, who is a threat to Trump in the 2020 election.

Just as they were during Watergate, accusations of abusing power for personal political reasons are at the heart of the new impeachment inquiry. Trump allegedly froze congressionally approved aid for Ukraine while asking Zelenskyy to provide possibly damaging information about Biden and his son Hunter.

Similarly, the second article of impeachment against Nixon charged him with abusing his presidential power. Nixon had used the FBI and IRS to hurt journalists, Democrats and other people he didn't like. His administration also created a secret unit to illegally wiretap people and break into their offices. And he used the power of his office to cover up the involvement of his aides

FIGHT

From Page 8

and promising to double match each donation.

It was not clear what the money would be used for exactly. But that's not the point. Trump is rallying his troops for the nastiest fight they've ever seen.

The rest of us will be left to deal with the collateral damage caused by a president who will go to any lengths to protect his own interests.

GRETA

From Page 8

whole economies, we could see some of the most severe effects of global warming as soon as 2040. A leading climate scientist, James Anderson of Harvard, predicts big problems in less time than that. Meanwhile, data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tells us that the Northern Hemisphere just had its hottest summer on record since 1880, and we have had five consecutive summers of record-breaking heat. Marylanders might have heard about a study estimating a 12-year loss of \$555 million in property value appreciation around the state because of increased tidal flooding. Another study, by a team of engineers and geodata specialists, estimated that, with just modest sea-level rise, the cost of protecting homes, businesses and farms in vulnerable areas of Maryland could cost about \$27 billion. And that's assuming efforts would be made to save lands that face inundation as the planet warms.

The good news, at least for our region, is that Maryland's political leaders have recognized the approaching storm and set goals for reducing both our dependence on fossil fuels and the greenhouse gas emissions it causes. Half of the state's energy must come from renewable sources by 2030 under a new state law that requires utilities to subsidize solar and wind farms. Gov. Larry Hogan has said he wants 100% of the state's electricity to come from "clean" sources (as distinguished from only renewable sources, such as wind and solar) by 2040. In July, we learned that Tradeport Atlantic, at the former Bethlehem Steel complex in Sparrows Point, struck a deal to serve as Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind's staging center for its publicly subsidized wind farm off the Maryland coast. This month, US Wind, the other company authorized to build turbines off the coast, started installation of a meteorological tower to gather wind data. These projects and other emerging plans seem to be in line with the public sentiment reflected in the Goucher Poll. But with its wealth, technical prowess and political will, Maryland should go even further. New York State, for example, pledged to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Such action is essential for the future of the planet. As the girl from Sweden said: Don't listen to us, listen to the scientists.

(c)2019 The Baltimore Sun

in the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C.

Another similarity is the critical role journalists played in exposing critical information that prompted the impeachment inquiries. Over the past week, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Washington Post have revealed details of a whistleblower's warning about Trump's phone call with Ukraine's president, the administration's initial refusal to release an inspector general's report about the warning and White House maneuverings to withhold aid to Ukraine.

During Watergate, the Washington Post, New York Times and other news outlets uncovered important details of the Watergate burglary, cover-up and political sabotage efforts. Like they do now, reporters relied on anonymous sources to disclose much of the information and received the White House's wrath. Nixon and his supporters accused the press of serving the interests of Democrats and engaging in a witch hunt. Trump tweeted Tuesday that the current inquiry was "Witch Hunt garbage."

A third resemblance is the weak public support for impeachment prior to formal proceedings. Most opinion polls have shown the public opposing Trump's impeachment, with an average of only 38.5% favoring it since the start of 2017. In Nixon's case, public support for impeachment never reached 50% during most of the Watergate investigation. A majority favored removing him from office only after the House Judiciary Committee held its impeachment hearings.

THE DIFFERENCES

Those similarities between the Trump and Nixon impeachment efforts are striking, but three key differences could lead to different outcomes.

First, during the Watergate scandal most Americans had a choice of just three television networks, three national news magazines and perhaps a couple of daily newspapers. Although a majority of newspapers endorsed Nixon for reelection in 1972, most media outlets were offering widespread coverage of his administration's crimes by the following year. As a result, it was hard for the public to avoid seeing information about the president's misdeeds.

Now Americans can choose from a multitude of media outlets, many of them highly partisan. Unlike Nixon, Trump has the benefit of outlets such as Fox News and "The Rush Limbaugh

By **JON MARSHALL**

Chicago Tribune



Jon Marshall is an assistant professor at Northwestern University's Medill School and the author of Watergate's Legacy and the Press: The Investigative Impulse.

Show" that have faithfully backed him, helping him maintain his popularity among conservatives. Trump also has the advantage over Nixon of being able to use Twitter to reach the public directly with his denials and attacks against Democrats and journalists.

Rising partisanship has contributed to another essential difference: declining public trust in public institutions. Once Congress held televised Watergate hearings and the media started covering Watergate extensively, support for impeaching Nixon began to rise.

But since Watergate, the percentage of Americans who have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of trust in Congress has plummeted from 42% to 11%. Over a similar span, trust in newspapers has fallen from 39% to 23%. This growing wariness of the media and Congress could mean that televised impeachment hearings won't sway public opinion regarding Trump's fitness for office.

Finally, Democrats controlled both the House and Senate during Nixon's presidency. This meant they could steer the impeachment process all the way through a potential trial. The presence of moderate Republicans in the Senate who were appalled by Watergate made it likely that Nixon would have been convicted by the required two-thirds vote if he hadn't resigned first.

Trump has the advantage of a GOP-controlled Senate whose members have loyally backed him and are circling the wagons to defend him against impeachment. Even if the House votes to impeach Trump, the Senate could save him.

Of course, we don't know yet what will be revealed during the impeachment inquiry. The whistleblower complaint or other new evidence could contain a smoking gun with Trump's fingerprints all over it. If that happens, it could end his presidency just as tapes of Nixon's conversations—released four days before his resignation—showed that he tried to get the CIA to interfere with the Watergate investigation.

But if the impeachment probe doesn't provide any startling new information, it's the Democrats whose political fortunes could be doomed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Educators, unite!

The current manner in which the 25% of general revenue is being determined after earmarks provides little or no assurance that the Public School System will be adequately funded. We believe the intent of the guaranteed 25% minimum should be just that, a minimum requirement. Our true obligation is to provide a quality public education to our future leaders (the students).

It is our hope that PSS leadership, the Board of Education and our central government can come to an agreement on a budget that accurately identifies the funding PSS needs to fulfill its obligation of providing a quality public education without compromising/harming the wellbeing of our educators and the 10,000-plus students we serve.

CNMI-Ed will be leading a march on Tuesday, Oct. 1. We invite the entire public to join us in solidarity. Here is the message we will be sending:

Every CNMI PSS student should be afforded the opportunity:

- to attend a school system that has the necessary resources to recruit and retain highly effective and highly qualified teachers for every classroom. (Competitive salaries and a non-hostile work environment.)

- to attend a school system that has the necessary resources to provide a safe and conducive learning environment.

- and to have a BOE that will exhaust every option within its power to ensure that PSS has the necessary resources available which will provide the COE adequate resources and autonomy to carry out his/her mission.

The march will begin at the Oleai pavilions (3pm-4pm registration) and end at Minachom Atdao for peaceful demonstration and an informal townhall with our board of education and elected leaders.

Come out for a nice walk and respectful dialogue with all

members of our beautiful community. If you cannot arrive in time for the march, still come to Minachom Atdao by 4:30pm to participate in the townhall.

Here are some questions many of us have for our leaders:

- Has the entire 25% of general funds due to PSS been paid on time?

- Have there been laws created that will enforce timely distributions in the future?

- Have all government leaders seen what PSS hopes to give our students in their budget proposals? If so, what could justify PSS receiving so little?

- Are we okay with the vast services being denied to our kids because of denied budget proposals?

- Is there any kind of negotiation or compromise being made between central government and PSS when mandating these budgets?

- If funding is increased, what services are we capable of including in our public education system that we don't have now? See you all tomorrow!






Alex Borja and CNMI-Ed Planning Officers
CNMI-Ed

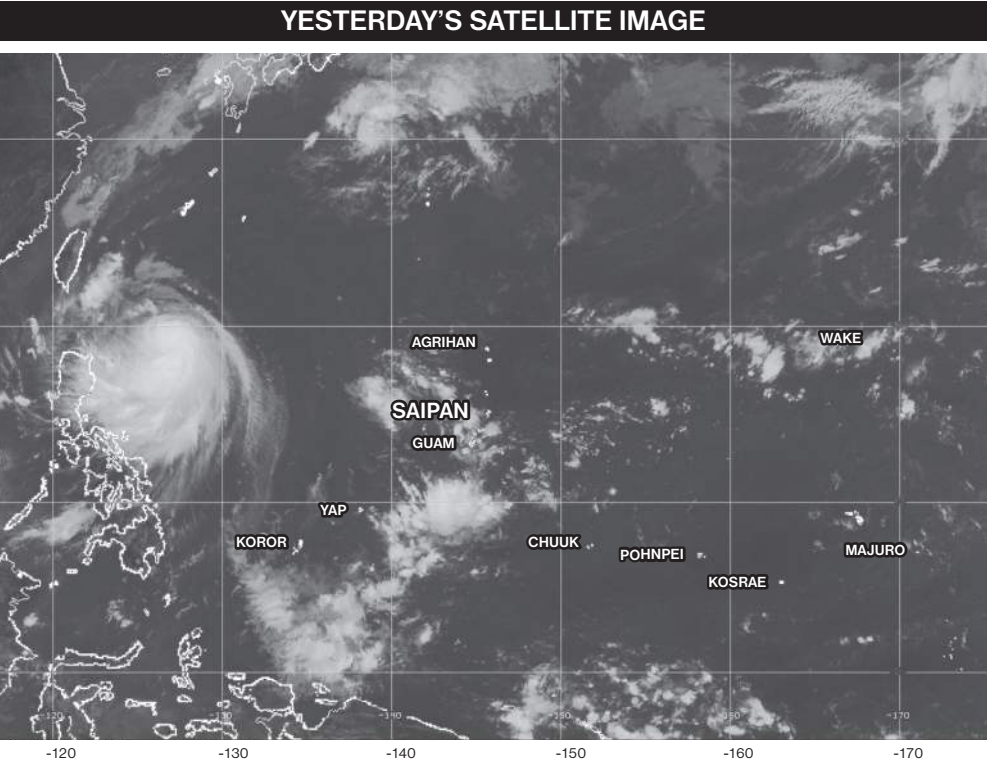
Waiting to be impeached

Thanks to his lies, President Trump is in so deep in scandals and controversy (his own doing) that I believe his impeachment is near. It's as if he looks forward to it, given the chaotic daily happenings, also of his own doing. This administration is simply the worst I've ever lived through in all my 89 years on this planet!

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°	88°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers are spreading south from Tinian and Saipan into Rota and Guam. Gentle to moderate winds prevail across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 82°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 83°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	55° / 50°	
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 63°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	88° / 79°	
Honolulu	Sunny	87° / 77°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	82° / 73°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	79° / 70°	
Rome	Showers	79° / 61°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	95° / 69°	
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 49°	
Seoul	Sunny	84° / 61°	
Tokyo	Showers	75° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 67°	

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:30 AM	LOW TIDE	0.27	
8:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.11	
2:51 PM	LOW TIDE	0.35	
8:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:18 AM	7:31 PM	-
Tuesday	8:18 AM	8:18 PM	-
Wednesday	9:17 AM	9:07 PM	-
Thursday	10:16 AM	9:56 PM	-
Friday	11:13 AM	10:48 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
BC802	4:45pm	7:30pm	Sep 20 to 22	BC801	10:00am	2:40pm	Sep 20 to 22
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 3 Sep 29 to Oct 6	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	4, 7 Sep 29 to Oct 6
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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BEAUTY HEALTH INTERIOR DECOR FURNISHINGS

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A seminal moment in the Oscar-winning musical, *Sound of Music*, shows the character of Julie Andrews, Maria, singing *My Favor-*

ite Things to explain to the von Trapp children that she always thinks of her favorite things whenever she is unhappy. Sounds facile but is actually an effective coping mechanism. We all want to create a home or office filled with all of the things we love and cherish. But no

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matter how you love many things in your home, there is always that one thing that will always make you sigh, feel good, and be positive

about. Saipan Tribune asked around: Which item in your home do you really like? The responses we got were quite insightful.



Sandy Weaver and her handcarved turtle decor.

Sandy Weaver: "I would have to say my absolute favorite piece of art or decor would definitely be my huge handcarved turtle that sits on a root stand. I purchased this gem years ago in Ubud, Bali and have learned from all the frequent trips in the past that if you see something you like, it is wise to purchase it as it may be hard to find again later. Growing up on Saipan, I've always been fond of turtles as they symbolize wisdom and good luck and, for some, it's a guardian spirit. This piece of art is about 3 feet by 4 feet and around 4 feet tall made of teak wood."



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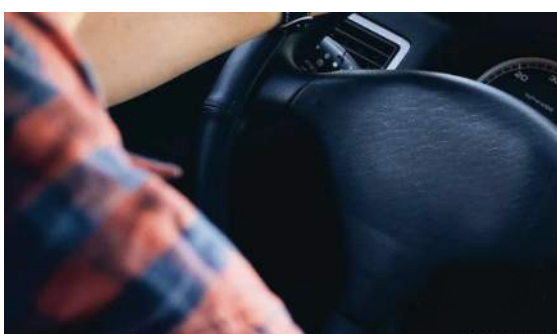
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Tery Dunn's saltwater aquarium.

Tery Dunn: "My favorite piece of decor in our house is our 150-gallon saltwater fish aquarium. I am a fish biologist and really enjoy keeping fish in our home. The fish are native to the CNMI and provide a great discussion topic for guests. I have recently really enjoyed my children's interest in the fish as it makes for a great place for them to learn about the environment as well as a daily chore."

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC. REAL ESTATE

Affordable housing, opportunities for growth

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sandy Beach Homes, which faces the beach side of Chalan Kanoa, and Saipan Comfort Homes across the Northern Marianas College both have one thing in common—Triple J Saipan, Inc. Real Estate—and embody the company's basic tenet, which is about providing quality housing that are also affordable and fit the needs of every tenant. And that involves creating communities of diverse individuals and families that realize and embrace opportunities for growth.

"It is always Triple J's mission to provide quality services and goods at affordable prices. Our motto, 'Customers' First' is supported by our success in developing and providing comfortable and safe standards of living for individuals and families," said Triple J Saipan, Inc. Real Estate Division Property Manager Rachel M. Roque.

That requires setting the highest standards in community living and offering modern amenities to all residents for a healthy and wholesome experience that also embodies convenience and peace of mind.

"Available to our residents are resources and opportunities to strengthen family, cultural, and community relationships within our developments," Roque said.

Affordable housing programs on Saipan are administered as Low Income Housing for Tax Credits (LIHTC) by the U.S. Housing Urban Development (HUD) in conjunction with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC). NMHC receives certain tax credits every year. These credits are awarded to investors for the development of LIHTC projects by companies, such as Triple J and its partners. The Sandy Beach Homes is Triple J's first such project and was opened in December 2011. It has 60 three-bedroom, two bathroom units, with on-site community features such as nightly security guard services, beachside pavilions, and maintenance services.

The Saipan Comfort Homes, Triple J's



Sandy Beach Homes, which faces the beach side of Chalan Kanoa, features world-class housing that are also affordable and fit the needs of every resident. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

second such property, was opened in March 2017. It has 40 two-bedroom, two bathroom units. Community benefits include a full-sized basketball court, a community pavilion, nightly security guard services, and maintenance services, among many features on-site.

A third Triple J housing project that is currently being built is Ocean Ridge Homes, which is being touted as one that has the best of both worlds of Sandy

Beach Homes and Saipan Comfort Home and boasts even more modern aesthetics, while retaining that comfortable island concept.

It is located along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau, next to the current location of Triple J Motors, and faces the Saipan Lagoon.

"Triple J looks forward to the prospects Ocean Ridge Homes will bring for our future residents," Roque said.

Ocean Ridge Homes is set to be available by January 2020 with 48 three-bedroom, two bathroom units, each consisting of 1,400 square feet. Two of the units will be disability-compliant, built according to the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. It will also have nightly security guard services.

"A safe community ensures that our tenants are comfortable and encourages families and households to flourish. That

is why our 'Trained and friendly' leasing and maintenance staff are ready to assist," Roque said.

And since these properties adhere to federal and local regulations, they have to follow certain standards and criteria. A thorough review process is conducted for each applicant according to federal and local guidelines that includes income limits.

Roque, assisted by Compliance Manager Sophia T. Dela Cruz and Leasing Specialists, Angela Aldan and Mathew Blanco, walk applicants who are interested in renting a unit through the whole process.

Roque said the housing units at all Triple J properties are for lease only and application is open to everyone, whether U.S. citizens or non-U.S. citizens, who meet the qualifying criteria set by HUD and NMHC. "We do undergo processes to determine if they fall under a certain income limit," she said. These income limits are published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That means Triple J is federally regulated and works closely with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation to ensure that all processes are in line with federal regulations, she said.

She assures that all background information that the tenant provides is strictly confidential.

The monthly rental at these properties are based on rent amounts provided by HUD and are subject to change. Monthly rental at Sandy Beach Homes is \$789, Saipan Comfort Homes is \$652 and the upcoming Ocean Ridge Homes property will have a monthly rent of \$730.

According to Triple J Corporate Controller Tracy M. Guerrero, "While income eligibility is only required for the initial 12 month period after being housed, our leasing team takes great pride and efforts to ensure that we are housing those families and individuals who have the most need and who we believe will be a good fit for the Sandy Beach Homes and Saipan Comfort Homes Communities.

For more information on Triple J Real Estate's affordable housing, call Roque or the Leasing Team at (670) 235-1357 or (670) 235-7263, or email: leasing@triplejsaipan.com.



TRIPLE J REAL ESTATE



For inquiries, please call: (670)235-7263



No holiday savings yet?

Here's how to build your funds fast

By SEAN PYLES
NERDWALLET

Timing is everything when it comes to saving for the holidays. The longer you

In this Nov. 9, 2018, file photo Christmas decorations are shown at a Walmart Supercenter in Houston. AP

have to build up cash reserves, plan your budget and buy gifts at the right price, the better you can cover these seasonal costs without going into debt.

Avoiding debt around the holidays can save you from a spending hangover in the new year: Shoppers who used credit cards to fund the holidays in 2018 anticipated it would take them over three months to pay off their debt, according to a NerdWallet survey of over 2,000 adults conducted by The Harris Poll.

Starting a couple of months before peak holiday season might be cutting it a little close for grand savings schemes this year, but you do have options. Here's how you can plan your spending this year—and start saving for next year's holidays.

SET YOUR PLAN FOR THIS YEAR

Say you're planning to kick off shopping in earnest around Black Friday, which falls on Nov. 29 this year. You still have two months for saving and planning. Start with these steps:

■ **SET YOUR HOLIDAY BUDGET.** If you don't have much savings, you'll likely have to use your discretionary income—what's left over after regular bills—to fund your holidays. Get a solid understanding of how much that is and try to keep expenses, including gifts and food, within that amount.

Being mindful of what you can afford can keep you from overspending, says Los Angeles-based financial coach Dominique Reese.

"I say think about your future self," Reese says. "How would your future financial self—yourself in January, February, March—feel about the expenses that you made over the holidays?"

To build your holiday budget, trim discretionary expenses over the next couple of months. Cut back on dining out or going to the movies, or temporarily cancel a couple of monthly subscription services.

■ **SPEND SMART:** Create a gift list that fits your budget, find good deals, and consider reducing holiday spending on food and gifts across the board to avoid going into debt.

Use your budget to guide your gift list. If your budget is tight, consider whether you can buy for fewer people; maybe you can suggest a get-together instead of a gift

exchange with some friends.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday can offer big savings, but you might find better deals at other times. Start checking prices now so you know what's a good deal—and what to skip.

Being frugal with holiday meal shopping can go far, says Summer Red, professional development manager at the Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education.

"Food is central to most holiday celebrations, and there are a lot of foods people will buy even though people don't like it," Red says. If no one in your family likes the dark meat of a turkey, for example, consider getting specific cuts rather than a whole bird.

"I encourage people to let go of some traditions and focus on what they really enjoy," she says. "That means you also have less food waste and less money waste."

SET YOURSELF UP FOR NEXT YEAR

While planning this year's holidays, start thinking about how you'll save money next year.

Track your spending to help inform what you'll need, Reese advises. "If you went over your budget, set aside more for next year," she says.

Then, find a saving strategy that works for you. Here are a few options:

■ **The 52-week savings challenge:** One of Red's preferred methods, with this "challenge," you start by saving \$1 the first week of December, then \$2 the next week, \$3 the following week, and so on, adding one dollar each week for a year. At the end, you'll have nearly \$1,400 to spend for the holidays.

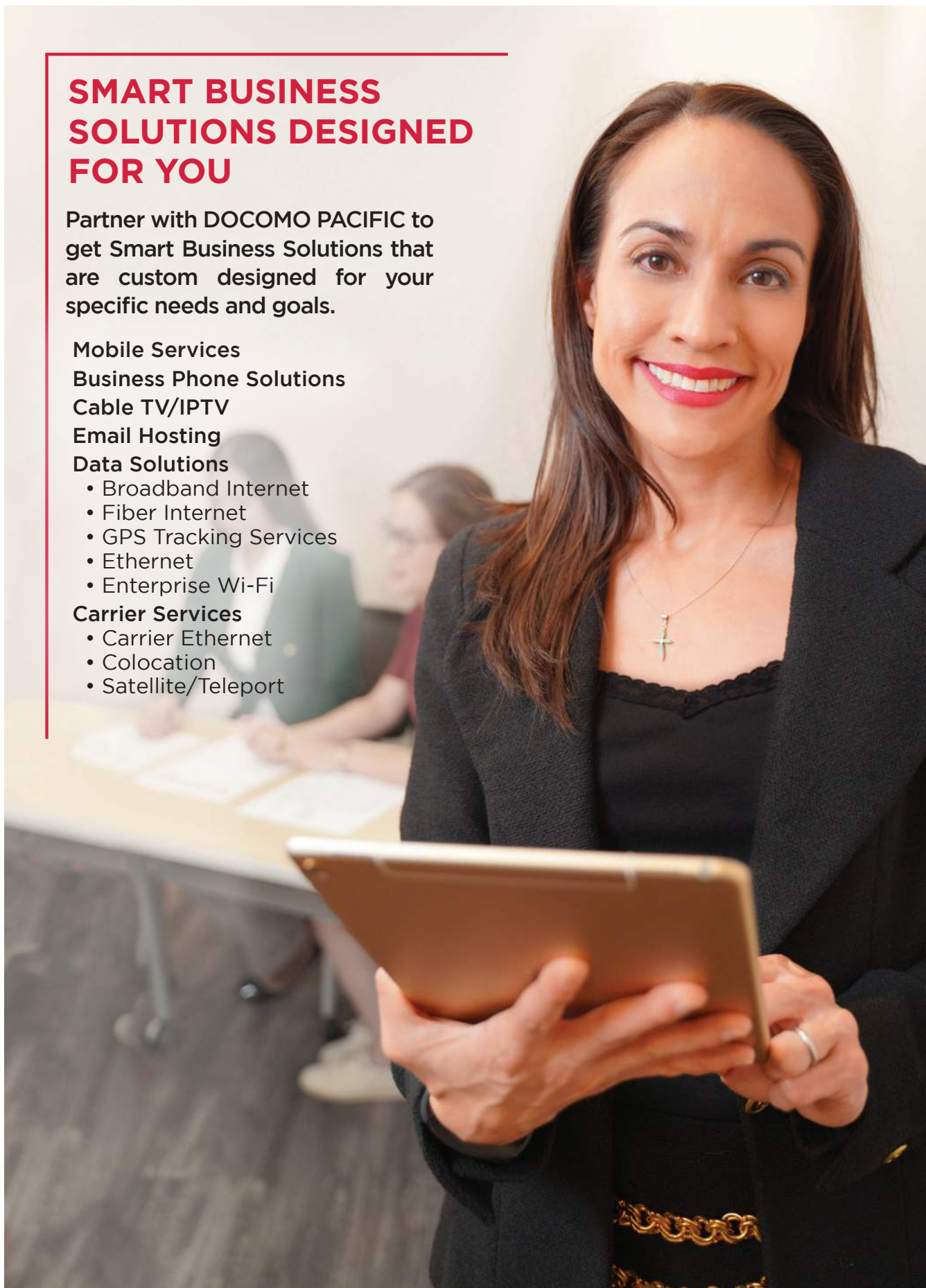
■ **Holiday savings accounts:** Typically offered by credit unions, these savings accounts are generally locked so you can't access what you're putting into savings until the holiday season. Putting just \$25 a month into one of these gives you \$300 saved for the holidays after a year.

■ **Set aside part of your income:** Reese suggests socking away a percentage of your income and automating transfers to build the habit of saving. Having some of your paycheck deposited directly into a savings account by your employer is an easy way to set money aside without thinking about it, too.

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Better Together

Triple J Truckload Store gears up for Black Friday

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The annual Black Weekend Sale coming up this Thanksgiving weekend promises yet to be another exciting event at the Triple J Truckload Store with sensational items crammed into the shelves of the store and meeting the community's exact needs.

The store's general manager, Jay Santos, said there will be specials on big and small appliances, electronics, household items and décor and toys—all coupled with a great price.

"So getting items for yourself, home, or the family are always guaranteed affordable. We take great pride in having the best prices on island with all the products that we offer in the store," he said.

With Christmas just around the corner, the Triple J Truckload Store will be flooded with even more items.

"...We want to offer diversity within our inventory. That is why many times customers who walk in without a shopping cart with the intent to look around and end up finding things and leaving with a cart full of

items," Santos added.

In April this year, Triple J Truckload Store extended its operating days from four days a week to five days—Wednesday to Sunday—in response to customer demand.

It's helpful the Truckload Store team is a tight and close-knit group with a structured communication system in place to ensure items are received, checked-in and shelved immediately, said Triple J marketing manager Mariavalentina Haberman.

"We run a tight ship and we commend their consistent efforts," she said.

An affiliate of Triple J Saipan, Inc., the Triple J Truckload Store came about in response to a need. Triple J did, in fact, operated a supermarket called "Super Fresh Market" in 2010 but, with the CNMI economy at an extremely low point, the company closed the supermarket and focused on the other aspect of its business—home décor, appliance, and furniture needs.

But that doesn't mean the passion died with the business. Santos said that Triple J Enterprises, Inc. CEO & Chairman of the Board Robert

H. Jones' passion to set up a Payless store on Saipan has never flagged, which is why a Triple J Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store is currently underway slated to open end of October 2019.

The ongoing construction currently beside the KFC restaurant in Chalan Kanoa is the future site of both Triple J Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store. "This time, we are a lot more optimistic that the venture will be successful," said Santos.

Morgan Carrico, the general manager for Triple J's Payless SuperFresh, said the goal is to have a grocery store that will have a strong organic produce section, meat and poultry, cheeses, a butchery and a deli.

"We want to offer diversity with the products that we will carry and have the cheapest price in town on the things that we possibly can. We also want to be consistent with having a full and fresh produce department, which is vitally important on this island."

He should know, having many years of grocery background working at Trader Joes in different parts of the U.S. mainland.

"The other thing that we

are trying to bring is a different type of market compared to the competitor stores. ... We want to highlight the butcher and deli departments that will be in full service, which no one has here. We are going to produce food out of our kitchen that will be a balance of local food items and a variety of culinary items from Asian to Mexican food," he added.

With a deli, Triple J Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store aim to introduce CNMI consumers to the concept of grab-and-go convenience, where customers swing by, pick and choose what they want, pay for it and go about their day.

"We are going to be on top of our game when it comes to our products, keeping the store clean and looking fresh. The store is going to have bright lighting, really good tile floors with an ambiance of an upscale market, with the ability to keep prices at a low point," Carrico said.

"There will also be 'demos' in the store where we can feature appliances from Triple J Truckload Store... and have...our food items there...we are excited and more updates will come before we open," Carrico added.



AWARD-WINNING COFFEE TABLE BOOK

Monique Storie, dean of University Libraries for the University of Guam, left, and UOG Press managing editor Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero accepted a bronze medal at the Independent Publisher Book Awards held on May 28 in New York City. The coffee table publication *Lina'la: Portraits of Life at Litekyan* by UOG's Micronesia Area Research Center and published by UOG Press won in the category Best Regional Non-Fiction for Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Rim. As the world's largest independent book awards, the program sees more than 2,400 publishers compete every year in 85 categories, 24 regional categories, and 11 e-book categories.

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iShop keeps up with the latest trends

By BEA CABRERA
beecabbe@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

This Christmas, my editor's two sisters will be getting a couple of Long-champs Le Pliage bags. And, yes, he got them from the iShop store at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. So iShop sells not only souvenirs and resort-related items but also the latest style and trends and even luxury items when it comes to lifestyle apparel, shoes, accessories and all things fashion-related. They even sell shoes and flip-flops.

iShop's new and current styles are always within easy reach as they have three outlets scattered around Saipan: at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, and at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

According to iShop operations manager Liza Fabre, they are always excited to offer the latest trends and upgrade on every product in



iShop's team leaders and supervisor: From left, Lyn Hernandez (sales supervisor), Lisa Feng (team leader), Nilda Bajado (team leader), Joan Durano (sales supervisor), and Lota Briosos (sales supervisor). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the store. "We always want to offer new and help get what our customers want. We listen to them, especially we have loyal repeat customers," she said. "We take care of our

customers...and at the end of the day, everyone is happy."

iShop always have on-season products from Herschel, Roxy, Quiksilver, Roxy, Billabong, Rip Curl, Birkenstock,

Speedo, Havaianas, Crocs, and Skechers. New additions to the stores are Cala beauty and body products from the U.S. mainland and Bench fragrances from the Philippines.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- iShop Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan: open 24 hours daily
- iShop Kanoa Resort:
Sun/Wed/Fri - 1:30am to 5:30am and 7am to 12midnight
Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat - 8am to 12midnight only
- iShop Paseo de Marianas:
Sat and Sun - from 3pm to 11pm
Mon to Fri - from 4pm to 11pm

iShop targets all kinds of consumers with their array of other brands: FrenchToast apparel and SKX shoes for kids ages from 6 to 16, Kitsch accessories for teens and ladies, and footwear selection from kids to adults.

All iShop stores aspire to be identified with impeccable service. "We want to be known and identified by our customers as always delivering quality and new products. We want to be unique from other regular retail stores on island," Fabre said.

That includes keeping up with fashion trends. "That is a must and we take that challenge on as we don't want to be left behind. ...

We are proud to say we carry high-quality original brands and provide best deals possible to customers," Fabre added.

Currently, all iShop stores have a buy 1, get 1 promo and discounts of up to 50% off on selected items. An upcoming Combo Flash Sale will soon happen this Thanksgiving and Black Friday.

Fabre said they have plans to bring in more international brands and expand their selection. "With iShop on island, there is no need to go outside the island to shop."

For more information about their products and best deals, call (670) 235-3712.

By BEA CABRERA
beecabbe@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Accessories can be the shining feature that ties any outfit together.

With the busy schedules of this year's winners of Miss Earth 2019 CNMI edition—from simple gatherings to nighttime cocktails, galas, and events—these beauties with a purpose all have go-to accessories that pull off that well-put look without looking overdressed. They all agree that no single woman today can do without partnering their wardrobe without an accessory.

LEISHA DELEON GUERRERO Miss Earth NMI 2019

Deleon Guerrero was crowned last June and an array of activities followed her



here and off island. Her must-have accessory are her pearl earrings.

"Pearl is my birthstone and...I have a natural incli-

nation to its beauty. I have pearl accessories, from earrings to necklace and a bracelet," she said.

Pearls are said to be this generation's diamonds. Aside from being less expensive than diamonds, pearls, with their translucent aura and soft colors, have a flattering effect on a woman's complexion and creates "instant glamour."

"It is so natural, simply elegant and it compliments whatever outfit you are wearing, from simple white shirt and jeans to an elegant black dress. ...I wear them for Miss Earth social functions, parties, weddings and when I dance the hula," she added.

Deleon Guerrero has a col-

lection that she purchased in Hawaii "and those are special to me."

JAN ZOWIE CRUZ Miss Water NMI 2019

Earrings are also Cruz's accessory of choice because, according to her, it helps her create different looks. "A fash-



create a ton of magic and stay with you for keeps for sentimental reasons, according to David.

The accessory that David brings with her to all social



the beaches [in] Guam and my dad found the ring lying in the sand while snorkeling. ...For him to hold on to a mere black ring their entire trip must have definitely meant something to him and how much he believes in me," she added.

MELE JOHNSON Miss Fire NMI 2019

Johnson cannot go out of the house without her hoop earrings on. "Hoop earrings make me feel confident, like I am ready to conquer the world," she said.

She also mixes and matches different accessories for the fun and excitement of

functions that she attends, no matter the occasion, is her stainless steel necklace with a black silicone ring attached to it. Plus all the sentimental reasons that come with the accessory.

"...This necklace, both the chain and the ring, were given to me as gifts by three very important people in my life. The stainless steel chain was given to me by my grandparents to represent the bond that [I] and my three close cousins had [while] growing up. The black silicone ring was given to me by my dad when he came back from a medical trip with my mom," she said.

As she tells it, her whole family knew that she has always wanted to study marine biology. "So one day, my dad and mom went out to one of



it. "During formal events, I like to find accessories that pull my outfit together. For example, if I am wearing a dress with a silver detail, then I'd grab a purse with a silver buckle and a chained silver necklace. Having the right accessories really makes or breaks an outfit," she added.

PHEONA DAVID Miss Air NMI 2019

Even basic accessories can



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Here are eight hotspots from north to south of Saipan that will not disappoint.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Wondering where to go to after a long day at work for happy hour to enjoy the sunset with a beverage or live music? Here are eight hotspots from north to south of Saipan that will not disappoint.

1. VINO BAR Aqua Resort Club, San Roque

Unwind at the Vino Bar with its "Free Flowing Wine & Tapas," which wants to bring people together to sit down, relax, and have freewheeling conversation. For only \$30 every Friday and Saturday, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, guests can sip on Robert Mondavi wines and three kinds of tapas. The great combination of wine and tapas make for a spectacular way to unwind from work, recharge, and refresh for the next day.

A live band performs and guests can ask for their favorite songs. **For reservations call (670) 322-1234 or go to their website at www.aquaresortsaipan.com.**

2. MARIANAS CREATIONS Micro Beach Road, Garapan

Marianas Creations is the newest entry to the Saipan happy hour scene. A cafe, bar, and local products shop, "MC Cafe" has quickly de-

veloped a reputation for its crafty cocktails, which all feature local ingredients. Cocktails are a mix of traditional classics and Marianas Creation originals. Local craft beer is served, as well as housemade soda and coffee. Pro tip: There's a rumor of a secret menu; ask the bartender for a hint.

Happy hour discounts run from 4pm to 6pm Monday to Sunday. Small bites and meals are available for pairing. MC Café is open seven days a week from 6:30am to 9pm and late on Friday and Saturday nights. **For more information, call (670) 488-1924.**

3. NAKED FISH Micro Beach Road, Garapan



Let these homegrown chefs amaze you with local appetizers at Naked Fish in Garapan. From left: lead line cook Jayma Pinaula, sous chef Tim Kapielo, lead line cook Ton Agulto, and head chef Inos Hocog.



BEA CABRERA

Visit MC Cafe on Micro Beach Road in Garapan and experience their local brew and cocktails.

8 happy hour hotspots on Saipan

Naked Fish's vision since it opened 15 years remains up to now—as Saipan's version of a local pub where people can find solace and cheer after a long and busy day. They are known for having a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere—easy lights and music, tall tables, bar stools, a wide array of cocktails, beer, and a specific selection of beers on tap.

Happy hour promos are available on different nights from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and drinks are encouraged to be paired with some of their dishes like chicken wings,

tuna poke and the famous Naked Fish garlic fish. Naked Fish is open Monday to Wednesday from 5:30pm to 10pm and Thursday to Saturday from 5:30pm to 12 midnight. **For reservations, call (670) 235-3474.**

4. SKIPPER'S BEACH BAR Hyatt Regency Saipan, Garapan

Before the sun goes down, expect to see residents and tourists saving a seat and ordering their favorite cocktails at Skipper's Beach Bar. Said to have the best view of the sunset on Saipan, Skipper's also carry a wide array of alcoholic drinks like Salty Dog, Screwdriver, Long Island iced tea, etc. and non-alcoholic drinks like Strawberry Jubilee, Shirley Temple and lemonade, etc. Drinks can also be paired with food from the bar menu such as Hyatt's signature burgers American, Chamorro burger, and Skipper's hotdog, to name a few.

5. CHAMBRE BAR Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Garapan

At Chambre Bar, happy hour also means big discounts. Enjoy 50% off on selected drinks from 5pm to 7pm and move on to the big shows on different nights.

On Mondays, find yourself belting out your favorite song at their Karaoke Night from 7pm to 10:45pm; on Tuesdays, sing and dance to the upbeat songs of the Revive Band from 8pm to 10:45pm; on Wednesdays, bring your dancing shoes for a hot Salsa Night and free dance lesson from 7:45pm to 10:30pm with \$5 entrance fee inclusive of a drink; on Thursdays, pour your heart out by enjoying the soul music of the Soul Ivory Band from 8pm to 10:45pm; and on Fridays, Big



BEA CABRERA

Take off your shoes and relax at the Skipper's Beach Bar of the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

J Band never fails to end the week with a big bang from 9pm to 11:45pm.

For reservations, call (670) 234-6412

6. OLEAI BEACH BAR & GRILL Susupe

Located along Beach Road, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill is the favorite pit stop of happy hour-goers. Enjoy the laid-back atmosphere while nursing your ice cold beer and favorite cocktail paired with their delicious tuna poke or simple chips and salsa. Watch paddlers cross the waters with the beautiful backdrop of the sunset. **For reservations, call (670) 234-0228**

7. BAREFOOT BEACH BBQ & BAR Kanoa Resort, Susupe

Island happy hour cannot get better than this, with the Barefoot Beach BBQ & Bar located right at the beachfront of Kanoa Resort. Enjoy their food and drinks specials

from 5pm to 7pm daily and, as a bonus, enjoy extended happy hour prices from 5pm to 10pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Live band music is provided by Baraha Band every Friday from 7:30pm to 10pm and Saturdays, sing and dance to the music of Revive Band from 7:30pm to 10pm.

For more information, call (670) 234-66-1 ext. 742/743.

8. SEASIDE GRILL SUNSET Pacific Island Club, San Antonio

Known for unlimited spiced or plain potato skins during happy hour from 5pm to 7pm, Seaside Grill Sunset is the best place to watch the sunset at the southern tip of Saipan. Whether you are a beer or cocktail drinker, you will find your favorite on the bar menu list. Smoothies are also available for non-drinkers. Enjoy their fresh ceviche, lumpia, tapas, and more. **For more information, call (670) 234-7976.**

MY FAVORITE

From Page 12



Maxine Laszlo and her flame tree painting.

Maxine Laszlo:

"The item in my home that gives me most joy is my painting of a flame tree. I purchased it this year at Flame Tree Arts Festival from painter Irineo David. I love how our island is portrayed in such vibrant colors, with Managaha in the background. The Flame Tree Art Festival is also my favorite week of the entire year, so whenever I see the piece, I'm reminded of all the artists and small business owners who share their passions for the rest of us to enjoy."



Rep. Sheila Babauta's chair.

Rep. Sheila Babauta:

"I found this beautiful chair being used by our procurement officer during my first few weeks in office. It was worn out, with many holes and covered in an old, red, leather-like fabric that needed much love and attention. Many laughed and actually thought I was crazy for even wanting it, but I saw its potential and beauty. This item is more than just a chair to me, it represents the long hours of hard work, meaningful meetings with community members, and life-changing decisions that have taken place in the Legislature. I wish I knew the list of representatives who sat in this very seat who had the same responsibilities, felt the same pressure and passion for our Marianas. ... This historic chair serves as a beautiful reminder of the service and sacrifice of our public servants, inspiring me to do my best and contribute to a better CNMI."

Sheryl Ann Clark's driftwood decor.

Sheryl Ann Clark: "My favorite piece of decor in our home is a handpainted mermaid on driftwood. While I might be a little partial to the artist (my fiancé), it's the love that went into the painting and taking something old and weathered and giving it new life that makes it truly special. It is also the piece that made our house here feel like a home since it was a piece of the Florida Keys we got to bring with us."

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Tourism is everybody's business.

2019 Chief Taga Day Festival "Gineptin Ha'anen Taga" October 1-6, 2019 Tinian, The Marianas

Celebrating the history and legend of indigenous Chamorro chief Taga

Beginning October 1

Historic presentations

Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Tinian Public Library

October 3

Arrival of "sakman" (Chamorro canoe)

October 4, 6 p.m.

Opening Ceremony,
Tinian Fiesta Grounds

Cultural demonstrators:

- from Tinian, jewelry makers Banidosu-Matthew Cruz Masga and Peter Palacios, Jr., coconut frond weaver Jose M. San Nicolas, coconut oil maker Magdalena San Nicolas, "talaya" (throw net) fisherman Peter Palacios
- from Saipan, Chamorro medicine group Inetnun Amot yan Kutturan Natibu
- from Rota, apprentice wood carver Richard Songsong Manglona and sling stone practitioner Lino Rosario
- from Guam, master body ornamentation craftsman Julie "Jill" Benavente, master blacksmith Francisco Cruz Lizama, master bone carver Greg Techaira Pangelinan, master shrimp trap maker Rosita Yoshia San Nicolas, assistant shrimp trap maker Joseph Kenneth Yoshida San Nicolas, master storyboard/Guam seal/clock carver Tanya Beth Smau Taitano, and master "ifit" carver Robert Philip Taitano, Jr.

Also culinary demonstrations, games for all ages, live entertainment and more!

October 6, 6 p.m.

Closing ceremony, House of Taga

For more information, contact Tinian Mayor's Office at 1.670.433.1802 or joesntiq@gmail.com, the 17th Municipal Council at 1.670.433.3470, or Marianas Visitors Authority Field Office Supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1.670.433.9365.



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A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Chief Taga festival to highlight Chamorro culture

The 2nd Chief Taga Day Festival on Oct. 1-6, 2019, in the Marianas will be highlighted by several presentations on the history and legend of indigenous Chamorro chief Taga.

"Gineptin Ha'anen Taga" (Chief Taga Day Festival) will be held on the island of Tinian, recorded as the place where Taga last lived and was buried.

The festival's official opening ceremony will be held on Oct. 4, 2019, at 6pm. However, historic presentations will begin Oct. 1, 2019, at Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, and Tinian Public Library. Cultural practitioner Frank Rebon will present on historic dance, Rufina Mendiola will share stories about Taga, and historian Anthony Ramirez will present on the ancient Chamorro stone pillars called "latte." In addition, a Chamorro "sakman" (sailing canoe) will arrive from Saipan on Oct. 3 at the fiesta grounds, and a "sakman" re-enactment will be held on Oct. 5.

Other activities will include cultural demonstrations, food demonstrations, and live entertainment, and

the events will close with an official ceremony on Oct. 6. Scheduled demonstrators are: from Tinian, jewelry makers Banidosu-Matthew Cruz Masga and Peter Palacios, Jr., coconut frond weaver Jose M. San Nicolas, coconut oil maker Magdalena San Nicolas, "talaya" (throw net) fisherman Peter Palacios; from Saipan, Chamorro medicine group Inetnun Amot yan Kutturan Natibu; from Rota, apprentice wood carver Richard Songsong Manglona and slingstone practitioner Lino Rosario; and from Guam, master body ornamentation craftsman Julie "Jill" Benavente, master blacksmith Francisco Cruz Lizama, master bone carver Greg Techaira Pangelinan, master shrimp trap maker Rosita Yoshia San Nicolas, assistant shrimp trap maker Joseph Kenneth Yoshida San Nicolas, master storyboard/Guam seal/clock carver Tanya Beth Smau Taitano, and master "ifit" carver Robert Philip Taitano, Jr.

Culinary demonstrations of various Chamorro dishes will be conducted from Thursday through Saturday from 4pm to 6pm at Tinian Festival grounds. On

Saturday, children's games will be held from 10am to 12pm, and games for adults will be held from 2pm to 4pm. The closing ceremony will be held at the House of Taga at 6pm.

The House of Taga is a landmark on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and the site of the largest standing limestone latte stones in the Marianas. Latte stones served as support pillars for ancient Chamorro structures.

"Tinian's 2nd Annual Gineptin Ha'anen Taga" is set to take place around Kammer Beach, Fiesta Grounds, and Taga' House," said Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan. "This year, our Bendision Saina will be a collaboration of various Guma' Bailan Kotura from Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. I would like to invite our families, friends, and off-island guests, all our Taotao Marianas (Marianas people) to experience and enjoy our Chamoru traditions like weaving, jewelry-making, song and dance, and food demonstrations."

The event is sponsored in part by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Chief Taga is one of the

most recognizable figures in Marianas history and mythology. In Spanish written records, Taga was recorded as aiding shipwrecked sailors off the reef near Tinian in the 1600s. In Chamorro mythology, Taga was known to possess superhuman strength, uprooting a coconut tree as a young child to catch a coconut crab and leaping from Rota to Tinian.

Accommodations are available at the Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Fleming Hotel, Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Green Field Lion House, the newly opened Marpo Valley Inn, and The Cabin. Camping is also allowed at Kammer Beach, where bathrooms, outdoor showers, barbecue pits, and pavilions are also available for use. Activities include lectures, storytelling, and cultural demonstrations are planned for the week.

For more information, contact Chief Taga Day Festival committee chair Joseph San Nicolas of the Tinian Mayor's Office at 1 (670) 433-1802 or email: joesntiq@gmail.com, the 17th Municipal Council at 1 (670) 433-3470, or MVA field office supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1 (670) 433-9365. (MVA)

Ole! for Club 200

The Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is excited to announce the Club 200 fundraiser the evening of Saturday, Oct. 12, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The theme this year is Latin Nights with hot 'n' spicy salsa music and dance right on the beach. Once again door prizes will be up grabs. The grand prize is a 2019 Toyota Rav4. Other door prizes are mucho nice, too. For the first time, Pinatas will give partygoers a chance to capture other prizes. The dance contest is expected to especially pika. The costume contest is yet another prize-worthy addition to the program. Muy bien!

Tickets are on sale now for \$100 each, \$150 for VIP reserved seats and extra caliente swag. Tickets are available at Joeten Stores, Red Cross board members or at the Chapter office near the airport.

For additional information, call 234-3459! (PR)

American Red Cross

Club 200 Latin Nights

GRAND PRIZE
2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE

Alkins Kroll **RAV4**

OCTOBER 12TH, 2019
SATURDAY, 6 PM - 10 PM
FIESTA RESORT & SPA

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\$150 FOR VIP SEATING

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED:
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Tan Siu Lin Foundation



Health & Wellness

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TSL Foundation pushes wellness in the workplace

When visiting one of TanHoldings' affiliates—internally referred to as small business units—you will notice announcements on a bulletin board that are not work-related at all. Included in that grab-bag of announcements are a list of activities that TanHoldings employees are encouraged to take part in.

The choices are ample. Employees can join the company's soccer team or suit up for its basketball squads.

If they like trading spikes and serves, volleyball is the perfect choice, while those who love hitting the shuttlecock can try badminton.

There are also regular fun runs, such as TanHoldings' signature event, the JP Run, which honors the memory of a former TanHoldings executive. The company's executives have also pioneered a walk/run along Beach Road every week, while the gyms at its hotels are open for the use of

employees for free. Seminars on professional and personal development/growth are also conducted, providing employees valuable information and experience to enhance their skills.

Another event that the company holds and is usually the highly anticipated is the "Lose Big, Win Big" contest, a weight-loss competition that is both an internal contest and has a version for the bigger CNMI community. Testimonies of employees' life-chang-

ing experience through this competition are the highlights of the event.

"These activities aim to encourage members of the TanHoldings family to stay active through sports and other events that promote a healthy lifestyle and professional growth. We take pride in having employees who are not only committed and dedicated to their work, but are also healthy—body and mind—to contribute to the company's success and their own progress," said TanHold-

ings chief executive officer Jerry Tan.

By letting the community know about TanHoldings' initiatives, Tan hopes that other companies would create and implement their own health and wellness program.

"Our employees are also members of the CNMI community, so the more employees we encourage to stay active and be healthy, the lesser the number of people with health issues we will have in the Commonwealth," he said.

PERSON TO PERSON

Practice good self-care for mental wellness

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON, EMMA H. HOPSON and TED HAGEN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Do you pause often to ask: How much care am I devoting to myself?

Being good to yourself is the key to taking care of all your other relationships, as well as your daily responsibilities.

Neglecting yourself means you're depleting your own emotional bank account. You'll feel tired, distracted and depressed.

Filling up your emotional bank account means paying attention. You'll have to figure out what you need in your life to feel nurtured and empowered. No one else can make those assessments for you.

"I learned after my divorce that I could cope with anything, if I took my own needs seriously," says a high

school football coach we'll call Justin. "I like to exercise an hour a day, read about 30 minutes every night, and talk with my sister every evening right after dinner. These three things keep me sane."

All of us have certain routines and activities that calm us, build us up, and help us feel we matter.

Here's how you can define what feels good to you:

- Decide which people make you feel safe. Connect with them often. These are people that show interest in your health, financial stability, and physical well-being. They do small things to make you feel nurtured, such as asking you out to lunch or giving you gifts.

- Name what makes your body

feel nurtured. Is it a workout at the YMCA or a soak in the tub? Honoring your body will make you feel healthy and whole. Going for weeks with no exercise and living on junk food will drain you emotionally.

- List activities that feed your mind. Engage in daily rituals that help you relax and feel calm. This might include watching old reruns of "Bonanza" or "Happy Days." Or, do you enjoy attending stage plays in your region?

"I am a fairly healthy 40-year-old who stays in a dead run," says a friend of ours we'll call Vickie. "The problem is, my husband's family and my relatives always have these chores for me. They are using me for every errand, using me to run their kids

around, and even asking me to go to doctors' appointments with them. I can tell I'm going downhill mentally and in my spirit. I dread picking up the phone or reading a text!"

We advised Vickie to take a step back and prioritize. Vickie needs to take care of Vickie! If not, she will end up paying a huge price for "helping" all these other people.

Any individual must learn to say no. This takes practice and some new "inventive" tricks. For example, you can wait a few hours to return a phone call. You can use a personal errand as an excuse not to help someone else. A deadline can be pushed back a little, unless it's a medical emergency.

"I found out that creating some breathing space won't kill anybody,"

says a young dad we'll call Rob. He got into a tailspin emotionally when he took a new job.

Rob goes on to say that his wife pointed out his sadness.

"She told me about a year ago that I never smiled anymore," he says. "She used the word 'joyless' to describe me. That's when I realized that something had to change. Nowadays, I keep a calendar just to pencil in some fun things for myself. I sneak off to a movie or a ballgame, or I take a long walk."

Judi Light Hopson is the Executive Director of the stress management website USA Wellness Café at www.usawellnesscafe.com. Emma Hopson is an author and a nurse educator. Ted Hagen is a family psychologist.

We're fast approaching the last big national grill day of the year, I was reminded recently. Time to break out the barbecue.

And grilled is good for us, right? It's better than fried and tastes so much better than anything boiled or popped in the microwave.

Unfortunately though, there is a downside. According to the National Cancer Institute, when beef, pork, fish or poultry are cooked at high temperatures—such as pan frying or over an open flame—chemicals called heterocyclic amines (HCAs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are formed. Experiments in laboratories have found that these substances may increase one's risk for cancer.

Besides high temperatures, these

bad boys are especially prevalent when fat and juice from meat drip into the fire, causing flames and smoke, say researchers. It's the smoke that contains PAHs that then stick to the surface of the meat. We get exposed to PAHs from car exhaust and cigarette smoke as well.

Don't throw out the grill just yet, though. There are some strategies that significantly reduce the formation of HCAs and PAHs.

Don't cook it to death. Meat, poultry or fish that remain at high temps for a long time are most susceptible to the build-up of these substances. One

method recommended is to cook the food in a microwave and finish it off on the hot grill, say some experts.

Marinate! According to the American Institute for Cancer Research, soaking your meat, fish or poultry for at least 30 minutes before grilling in a marinade that contains acidic ingredients such as lemon juice or vinegar can reduce the formation of HCAs by more than 90 percent.

Grill over heat, not fire. That way dripping grease doesn't cause a flare-up which releases dangerous chemicals back into the meat. Electric grills like the George Foreman Indoor/Outdoor

grill work well without breaking the bank. These types of products let you lower your grilling temperature and are set up to let fat run into a trap away from the food. And hey, if it rains on your backyard party, you can still safely grill indoors, no worries.

Grill more vegetables. Because they are low in protein, they do not form HCA. And remember that colorful vegetables contain natural chemicals that help reduce the risk for cancer.

Grill smaller portions of meat. Kabobs, for example, that mix small amounts of meat with vegetables, cook faster and

therefore spend less time cooking at high temps.

Refrain from indulging in charred portions of meat. Yes, I know, some of us consider this the tastiest part. Yet experts say avoiding charred meat and poultry can reduce our exposure to HCAs and PAHs.

Turn food frequently. This suggestion will go over like a lead balloon to steak aficionados. Yet researchers report that flipping meat often helps reduce the formation of HCAs.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com.

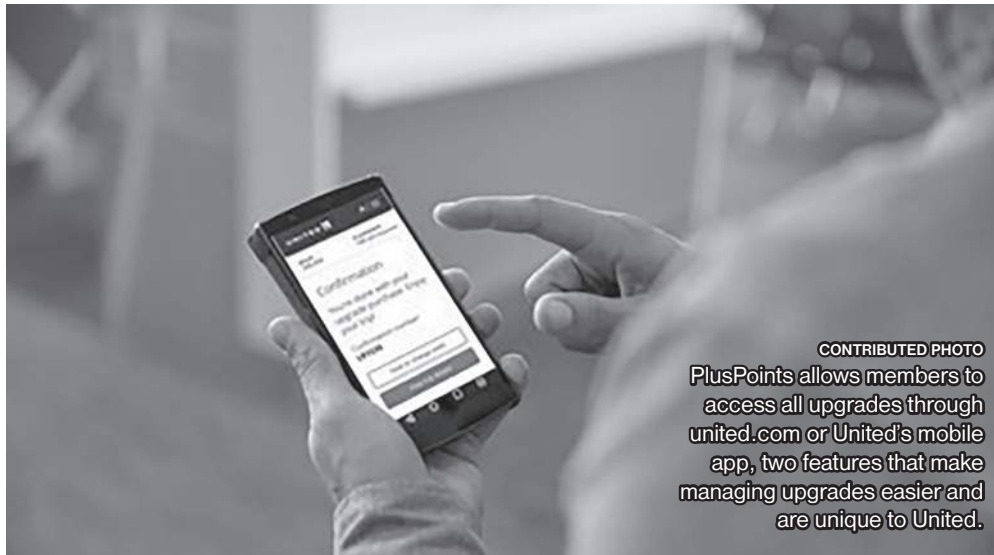
Quinn on Nutrition: Grilling it right

By BARBARA QUINN

THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

Business

United introduces PlusPoints



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
PlusPoints allows members to access all upgrades through united.com or United's mobile app, two features that make managing upgrades easier and are unique to United.

CHICAGO—United Airlines last week announced PlusPoints, a new upgrade benefit for Premier Platinum and 1K members that creates more opportunities—and more freedom—for them to be upgraded on flights. Top tier members will receive a bank of points that they can use to upgrade on all flights across United's global network, where they previously would have used Regional Premier Upgrades (RPU) or Global Premier Upgrades (GPU). With PlusPoints, members will be able to access all upgrades through united.com or United's mobile app, two features that make managing upgrades easier and are unique to United. United is the only global U.S. airline that lets members request all upgrades without making a phone call.

"We're making it even easier for our Premier members to use upgrades when and how they want," said Vice President of Loyalty and President of MileagePlus Luc Bondar. "The new PlusPoints program increases the overall number of upgrade opportunities for top tier Premier members, expands the fare classes where they can be used, and lets members request upgrades on multiple flights all at once. We already make it easy for members to manage all of their upgrades online, and the move to PlusPoints is yet another way we are making MileagePlus the best loyalty program in the industry."

How PlusPoints works

On Dec. 4, United will replace Regional Premier Upgrades and Global Premier Upgrades with PlusPoints. Each RPU will be worth 20 PlusPoints and each GPU will be worth 40 PlusPoints. Members using one RPU today to upgrade from Economy to United First on domestic U.S. and North American flights will use 20 PlusPoints from their banks. A member using one GPU today

- » Premier Platinum level members and above will now earn PlusPoints
- » PlusPoints gives members more flexibility, more options with fewer restrictions to use their upgrades across United's global network

to upgrade from Economy to United Polaris business class on international long-haul flights will use 40 PlusPoints.

More flexibility to request upgrades

PlusPoints gives members more flexibility to decide how to use their upgrades and creates more opportunities for them to be upgraded. Starting in December, members can use their points to join upgrade waitlists on multiple trips, and points won't be deducted from their accounts until upgrades are confirmed. Spreading upgrade requests across multiple trips makes it more likely that one or more of their trips will be upgraded. Members will still be able to confirm upgrades at booking if space is available.

PlusPoints also makes upgrading to and from premium economy more flexible. Upgrading from Economy to United Premium Plus and from United Premium Plus to United Polaris business class will be possible for less than the value of one GPU.

Fewer restrictions, more options

PlusPoints offers members new options to request upgrades and gives them the ability to customize their travel experience. While RPUs were restricted to upgrades in select regions, PlusPoints can be used for any United flight. Additionally, Premier Platinum members will now receive enough PlusPoints to upgrade from Economy to United Polaris business class, while Premier 1K members will be able to upgrade from discounted Economy fares to

Polaris. From time to time, United may also allow 1K members the opportunity to skip the waitlist and receive a confirmed upgrade at booking when traveling on select international long-haul flights, even when upgrade fare classes are closed.

Importantly, PlusPoints does not replace or change United's Complimentary Premier Upgrades benefit. In recognition of their loyalty, all Premier members will continue to be placed on upgrade waitlists for flights operated by United and United Express when available. For more information on PlusPoints visit <http://mileageplusupdates.com/>.

Every customer. Every flight. Every day.

In 2019, United is focusing more than ever on its commitment to its customers, looking at every aspect of its business to ensure that the carrier keeps customers' best interests at the heart of its service. In addition to today's announcement, United recently announced that luxury skincare line Sunday Riley will make products exclusively for United customers to experience in amenity kits, released a reimagined version of the most downloaded app in the airline industry, introduced ConnectionSaver, a new tool dedicated to improving the experience for customers connecting from one United flight to the next and made DIRECTV free for every passenger on 211 aircraft, offering more than 100 channels on seat back monitors on more than 30,000 seats. (PR)

Nation

TRUMP IMPEACH INVESTIGATION

Democrats issue subpoenas

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats took their first concrete steps in the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump, issuing subpoenas demanding documents from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and scheduling legal depositions for other State Department officials.

At the end of a stormy week of revelation and recrimination, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi framed the impeachment inquiry as a somber moment for a divided nation.

"This is no cause for any joy," she said on MSNBC.

At the White House, a senior administration official confirmed Friday a key detail from the unidentified CIA whistleblower who has accused Trump of abusing the power of his office. Trump, for his part, insisted anew that his actions and words have been "perfect" and the whistleblower's complaint might well be the work of "a partisan operative."

The White House acknowledged that a record of the Trump phone call that is now at the center of the impeachment inquiry had been sealed away in a highly clas-



President Donald Trump arrives with Vice President Mike Pence to speak at the Hispanic Heritage Month Reception in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Sept. 27, 2019.

sified system at the direction of Trump's National Security Council lawyers.

Separately, Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway told reporters that the whistleblower "has protection under the law," something Trump himself had appeared to question earlier in the day. He suggested then that his accuser "isn't a whistleblower at all."

Still at issue is why the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's president was put on "lock down," in the words of the whistleblower. The CIA officer said that diverting the record in an unusual way was evidence that

"White House officials understood the gravity of what had transpired" in the conversation.

The whistleblower complaint alleges that Trump used his office to "solicit interference from a foreign country" to help himself in next year's U.S. election. In the phone call, days after ordering a freeze to some military assistance for Ukraine, Trump prodded new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to dig for potentially damaging material on Democratic rival Joe Biden and volunteered the assistance of both his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

Doctor facing life in prison for thousands of opioid doses

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—By the time drug enforcement agents swooped into his small medical office in Martinsville, Virginia, in 2017, Dr. Joel Smithers had prescribed about a half a million doses of highly addictive opioids in two years.

Patients from five states drove hundreds of miles to see him, spending up to 16 hours on the road to get prescriptions for oxycodone and other powerful painkillers.

"He's done great damage and contributed ... to the overall problem in the heartland of the opioid crisis," said Christopher Dziedzic, a supervisory special agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration who oversaw the investigation into Smithers.

In the past two decades, opioids have killed about 400,000 Americans, ripped families apart and left communities—many in Appalachia—grappling with ballooning costs of social services like law enforcement, foster care and drug rehab.

Smithers, a 36-year-old married father of five, is facing the possibility of life in

prison after being convicted in May of more than 800 counts of illegally prescribing drugs, including the oxycodone and oxymorphone that caused the death of a West Virginia woman. When he is sentenced Wednesday, the best Smithers can hope for is a mandatory minimum of 20 years.

Authorities say that, instead of running a legitimate medical practice, Smithers headed an interstate drug distribution ring that contributed to the opioid abuse epidemic in West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia.

In court filings and at trial, they described an office that lacked basic medical supplies, a receptionist who lived out of a back room during the work week, and patients who slept outside and urinated in the parking lot.

At trial, one woman who described herself as an addict compared Smithers' practice to pill mills she frequented in Florida.

"I went and got medication without—I mean, without any kind of physical exam or bringing medical records, anything like that," the wom-

an testified.

A receptionist testified that patients would wait up to 12 hours to see Smithers, who sometimes kept his office open past midnight. Smithers did not accept insurance and took in close to \$700,000 in cash and credit card payments over two years.

"People only went there for one reason, and that was just to get pain medication that they (could) abuse themselves or sell it for profit," Dziedzic said.

The opioid crisis has been decades in the making and has been fueled by a mix of prescription and street drugs.

From 2000 to 2010, annual deaths linked to prescription opioids increased nearly four-fold. By the 2010s, with more crackdowns on pill mills and more restrictive guidelines on prescriptions, the number of prescriptions declined. Then people with addictions turned to even deadlier opioids. But the number of deaths tied to prescription opioids didn't begin to decline until last year, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Asia

Chinese parade glimpse into military ambitions

BEIJING (AP)—A parade Tuesday by China's secretive military will offer a rare look at its rapidly developing arsenal, including possibly a nuclear-armed missile that could reach the United States in 30 minutes, as Beijing gets closer to matching Washington and other powers in weapons technology.

The Dongfeng 41 is one of a series of new weapons Chinese media say might be unveiled during the parade marking the ruling Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power. Others include a supersonic drone and a robot submarine.

The parade will highlight Beijing's ambition to enforce claims to Taiwan, the South China Sea and other disputed territories—and to challenge Washington as the region's dominant force.

The People's Liberation Army, the world's biggest military with 2 million men and women in uniform and the second-highest annual spending after the United States, also is working on fighter planes, the first Chinese-built aircraft carrier and nuclear-powered submarines.

"There are quite a lot of observers, including the U.S. military, who say, 'This is getting close to what we do,' and



In this Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, photo, a Chinese military vehicle carrying what appears to be a drone passes along the Jianguomenwai Avenue during a rehearsal for the 70th anniversary of Communist China, in Beijing.

they are starting to worry," said Siemon Wezeman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Tuesday's parade will include 15,000 troops, more than 160 aircraft and 580 pieces of military equipment, according to Ministry of Defense spokesman Maj. Gen. Cai Zhijun.

Many new weapons "will be shown for the first time," Cai told reporters last week. Asked whether that would include the Dongfeng 41, Cai said, "Please wait and see."

The ability to project power is increasingly urgent for Chinese leaders who want to con-

trol shipping lanes and waters also claimed by Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and other governments.

"China has developed nuclear, space, cyberspace and other capabilities that can reach potential adversaries across the globe," the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency said in a report in January.

Last year's spending on the PLA rose 5% to \$250 billion, or about 10 times its 1994 level, according to SIPRI. The United States, with a force of 1.3 million, was far ahead at \$650 billion, or more than 2½ times China's level.

HK pro-democracy rally ends early as violence erupts

HONG KONG (AP)—A massive pro-democracy rally Saturday in downtown Hong Kong ended early after violence broke out, with police firing tear gas and a water cannon after protesters threw bricks and Molotov cocktails at government buildings.

Police said in a statement that "radical protesters" lobbed gasoline bombs and damaged property outside the government offices, and aimed laser beams at a helicopter, posing "a serious threat to the safety of everyone" in the area.

The violence was a familiar scene that has been repeated since protests for democratic reforms started in early June in the semiautonomous Chinese territory. It also came three days before a major march is planned on the day China celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Communist Party taking power, sparking fears of bloody clashes that could embarrass Beijing.

Organizers said 200,000-300,000 people attended Saturday's rally, while police did not immediately give a turnout figure. The rally was called to

mark the fifth anniversary of the 2014 Umbrella Movement, in which protesters occupied key thoroughfares in the downtown area for 79 days beginning Sept. 28 to demand direct elections for the city's leaders but failed to win any government concessions.

More than 1,000 protesters streamed onto a main road, with some targeting government buildings that were barricaded. Police initially used a hose to fire pepper spray after some demonstrators threw bricks. Police later used a water cannon truck to fire a blue liquid, used to identify protesters, and fired tear gas after protesters lobbed gasoline bombs through the barriers.

Wails of anger could be heard from people leaving the rally when they saw the water cannon. "Damn government," one woman yelled as she hastily left with her daughter.

Many protesters used umbrellas to shield themselves and retreated but returned after that. Scores of riot police poured onto the road and protesters later fled. Police continued to patrol the streets

and searched people leaving the area.

"We think we will lose because their force is so strong," said one demonstrator, 22-year-old Sang Chan. "But if we don't do anything now, we'll have no other chance."

A 32-year-old protester who would give only his surname, Chau, said the demonstrators hope to wear down the government. "It's like a marathon to see who gets tired first," he said.

Protesters unfurled a large banner that read "We are back" on a footbridge to the government office. A staircase leading to the bridge was turned into a veritable gallery of protest art, with posters stuck on every available surface of the walkway. One read "Persevere until final victory."

Some protesters trampled on pictures of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam that were glued to the floor. At one of the gates to Lam's office, the Chinese word for "hell" and an arrow pointing to the building were spray-painted on the sidewalk.

World

'West can't accept its decline'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia's foreign minister took aim at the West on Friday, saying its philosophies are out of step with the times and that it is struggling to accept what he called its diminishing dominance in world affairs.

In his speech before the U.N. General Assembly, Sergei Lavrov blamed the countries that declared themselves winners of the Cold War between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union for the current challenges facing the world, and for the increasing fragmentation of the international community.

He pointedly scorned much of the "West," a term Russian officials typically use to refer to the United States and its traditional allies in Europe. He accused them of manipulating their citizens, disseminating false information, and preventing journalists from doing their work—all charges that the West has long lobbed at the Russian government and its predecessor, the Soviet Union.

"It is hard for the West to accept seeing its centuries-long dominance in world affairs diminishing," Lavrov said. "Leading Western countries are trying to impede the development of the polycentric world, to recover their

privileged positions, to impose standards of conduct based on the narrow Western interpretation of liberalism on others."

The relationship between Russia and the U.S. has been deteriorating for years. The two countries are at odds on many issues internationally, from Iran's nuclear program to Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea to the war in Syria. Relations frayed even further amid U.S. allegations that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

At a news conference after his speech, Lavrov called the current dispute over the phone call between President Donald Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "overblown," and strongly denied U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's claim that Russia is involved.

"The American political class," he said, almost daily accuses Russia "of all cardinal sins."

Trump's phone call with Zelenskyy, in which the American president is alleged to have sought help from Ukraine to win next year's election, is at the center of a House impeachment probe.

Lavrov's comments came in response to an interview Pelosi gave earlier Friday on MSNBC's Morning Joe

show in which she said, without elaborating, that "I think Russia has a hand in this, by the way."

Lavrov, responding to a question on whether conversations between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin should be released, quoted his own mother who told him as a boy that reading other people's letters is "indecent."

He said diplomatic contacts are supposed to have "a certain level of confidentiality," and asked: "How can you work in such conditions?" if communications are released?

Lavrov held wide-ranging talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo before his speech and said he proposed additional channels of cooperation including between U.S. and Russian businessmen and entrepreneurs, and establishing "an expert council of outstanding statesmen, former military and diplomats and intelligence services."

The Russian minister said he also proposed a missile moratorium and action on other arms control issues. And he warned that "the United States is setting course for transforming cyberspace and outer space into an arena for military confrontation."

Syria demands withdrawal of all American, Turkish forces

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Syria's top diplomat on Saturday demanded the immediate withdrawal of American and Turkish forces from the country and said his government reserves the right to defend its territory in any way necessary if they remain.

Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem's remarks to the United Nations General Assembly were made as Turkey and the United States press ahead with a deal to create a safe zone along Syria's border with Turkey.

On the political front, he reaffirmed the government's support for the recently agreed committee to draft a new constitution for the country. As has been the government's tone since the start of the 2011 uprising in Syria, the foreign minister took a hard line, stressing there must be no interference from any country or timeline imposed on the process.

Al-Moallem's speech highlighted the enormous challenges to achieve reconciliation in Syria, where over

400,000 people have been killed during the conflict and millions more have fled.

The more than eight-year conflict has also drawn numerous foreign militaries and thousands of foreign fighters to Syria, many to support the now-defeated Islamic State extremist group and others still there backing the opposition and battling government forces.

"The United States and Turkey maintain an illegal military presence in northern Syria," al-Moallem said. "Any foreign forces operating in our territories without our authorization are occupying forces and should withdraw immediately."

If they refuse, he said, "we have the right to take any and all countermeasures authorized under international law."

There are around 1,000 U.S. troops in Syria on a mission to combat Islamic State militants. The United States also backs and supports Kurdish groups in the northeast that are opposed to the Syrian government and

have fought against Sunni extremist groups.

U.S. President Donald Trump had said he wants to bring the troops home, but military officials have advocated a phased approach.

Al-Moallem described Turkey and the United States as "arrogant to the point of holding discussions and reaching agreements on the creation of a so-called 'safe zone' inside Syria" as if it was on their own soil. He said any agreement without the consent of the Syrian government is rejected.

The deal between the U.S. and Turkey keeps U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters, considered terrorists by Turkey, away from Syria's northeastern border with Turkey. It involves an area five to 14 kilometers deep (three to eight miles), as well as the removal of heavy weapons from a 20-kilometer-deep zone (12 miles). The length of the zone has not yet been agreed to by both parties but will likely stretch hundreds of kilometers.

Life & Style

Artist Kehinde Wiley unveils bold sculpture in Times Square

NEW YORK (AP)—Perpetually crowded Times Square has a new statue for pedestrians to navigate—but it's unlike any other.

Artist Kehinde Wiley un-

veiled his biggest work ever Friday, a massive bronze statue of a young African American man in urban streetwear sitting astride a galloping horse.

Called "Rumors of War," it



A bronze sculpture, "Rumors of War," by artist Kehinde Wiley, appears in Times Square at an unveiling on Friday Sept. 27, 2019, in New York.

those streets. I'm looking up at those things that give me a sense of dread and fear. What does that feel like, physically, to walk a public space and to have your state, your country, your nation say, 'This is what we stand by.' No. We want more. We demand more," he said. "Today we say 'yes' to something that looks like us."

The horse-riding figure in "Rumors of War"—on the Broadway Plaza between 46th and 47th streets—has turned in his saddle, his attention seemingly toward an American Eagle store. His Nikes

are firmly in the stirrups and his majestic horse is in movement, focused on something across the street.

"Rumors of War" will display in Times Square until December before finding a permanent home at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

For now, Wiley's work joins other sculptures in the plaza of the so-called Crossroads of the World. There are also statues of Father Francis Duffy and producer George M. Cohan, both white men.

The unveiling was bookended by performances from the marching band from Malcolm X Shabazz High School in Newark, New Jersey. Other speakers at the unveiling included Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney.

City to pay Stormy Daniels \$450,000 over strip club arrest

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Ohio's capital city agreed Friday to pay porn actress Stormy Daniels \$450,000 to settle a lawsuit over her arrest at a strip club last year, the latest fallout traced to the city's now-disbanded vice unit.

Daniels' federal defamation complaint against several Columbus officers alleged police conspired to retaliate against her over her claims that she had sex with Donald Trump before he became president.

She was arrested on suspicion of inappropriately touching an undercover officer following a performance at Sirens in July 2018, but the

city attorney's office dropped charges within hours.

The agreement was reached after mediation Friday, with all parties agreeing the figure was fair "given the facts and circumstances involved," said Meredith Tucker, a spokeswoman for City Attorney Zach Klein.

A message was left with an attorney for Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

The interim Columbus police chief recommended this month that two officers from the former vice unit be fired for their roles in the undercover strip club operation that resulted in Daniels' arrest.

'Dog the Bounty Hunter' star faces his own health problems

DENVER (AP)—Duane Chapman, known to millions as the star of the "Dog the Bounty Hunter" reality TV show, tells People magazine that he is facing his own medical problems after the death of his wife from cancer.

Chapman, 66, appeared on Monday's episode of "The Dr. Oz Show" in which he learned that he's suffering from a pulmonary embolism in the heart—meaning one or

more of his arteries has been blocked by blood.

Dr. Mehmet Oz counseled him not to be afraid and to get medical help, People reported.

People magazine says that Chapman was taken to a hospital in Colorado in mid-September after he felt a pain in his chest, according to the celebrity news site TMZ.

Beth Chapman, who co-starred with her husband on the show, died in June at age 51.

flips the script on traditional statutes commemorating white generals. Wiley described his bold work as a call to arms for inclusivity.

He told The Associated Press afterward that he hoped young people would see it and "see a sense of radical possibility—this, too, is America."

The project was born when

Wiley saw Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's monument in Richmond, Virginia. That 15-foot-tall bronze work portrays Stuart astride a horse and is part of the city's string of Confederate memorials along Monument Avenue that includes ones for Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Stonewall Jackson.

"I'm a black man walking

Meghan visits memorial to murdered South African woman

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has visited a memorial to a young South African woman whose rape and murder inspired thousands of people to protest the country's high rate of sexual violence.

In a quiet stop during a royal tour, Meghan tied a ribbon to the memorial at the post office where 19-year-old

university student Uyinene Mrwetyana was attacked last month. The assault has led outraged women to march in the streets in major cities and rally behind an online campaign called #AmINext.

A post on the royals' Instagram account called the death "a critical point in the future of women's rights in South Africa" and said the visit was "per-

sonally important" to Meghan.

The duchess also has spoken with Mrwetyana's mother, the post said, adding that "the Duke and Duchess had been following what had happened from afar and were both eager to learn more when they arrived in South Africa."

More than 100 rapes are reported every day in South Af-

rica, and President Cyril Ramaphosa calls the country "one of the most unsafe places in the world to be a woman." He announced new emergency measures and vowed to be tougher on perpetrators, but some women weary of years of such pronouncements have suggested that South Africa bring back the death penalty for rapists.

Taylor Swift, Lizzo, BTS to perform on Jingle Ball tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift, Lizzo, Billie Eilish and BTS are set to perform on the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball Tour this holiday season.

iHeartMedia announced Friday that the 12-city tour kicks off Dec. 1 in Tampa,

Florida. The lineup, which varies by city, also includes Lil Nas X, Sam Smith, Camila Cabello, Khalid, Halsey, Katy Perry and Jonas Brothers.

The tour will visit Inglewood, California; San Francisco; Philadelphia; Boston;

Washington, D.C.; Chicago and Atlanta. The tour wraps Dec. 22 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Dec. 13 show at New York's Madison Square Garden will livestream on CWTV.com, the CW app and iHeart-

Radio stations. It will be broadcast Dec. 19 on the CW Network.

Other performers include 5 Seconds of Summer, Normani, Charlie Puth, French Montana, Dan + Shay and Monsta X.

Tickets go on sale Oct. 11.

Student's fear of the future makes every day struggle

DEAR ABBY: I'm frightened that I will become homeless and won't be able to pay my bills. I'm afraid of getting older and ending up a homeless woman, freezing to death on the streets. I worry that the college degree I'm working toward will be useless.

I see the challenges older people go through: house bills, medical bills, student loans, car bills, trying to save for retirement. I'm accused of being a cheapskate, but I'm terrified I will never have enough. Sometimes the future seems bleak. While other people see possibilities and adventure, all I can see is a homeless death on the streets.

I struggle every day to find a reason to get up. I distract myself with simple goals: go to class, finish homework, get a college degree, and then get some kind of job. But there are so many bills to pay just to live—so many problems in the future that are right around the corner.

When you're a single gal alone in this world, the melancholy begins to seep in. I ask myself, is this life worth it? What is the point of getting up day after day knowing that when I graduate from college there's nothing ahead of me but a life of constant bills and misery?

EVERYDAY STRUGGLE

DEAR EVERYDAY STRUGGLE: It has been some time since I have seen a letter filled with as much negativity and depression as the one you have written. One of the benefits

of being in school is you have access to the student health center. I URGE you to go there and talk to a counselor who can help you cope with your fears before they become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Decades ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." This applies to you. We all have moments of doubt about what's to come, but when fear about the future destroys the present, it's time to seek professional help and an attitude adjustment. Please do it, because if you do, I'm confident you will feel better.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, I inherited eight place settings of china that belonged to my great-grandmother. I had no place to display it, so I carefully wrapped each piece in newspaper and put them inside a hard-sided plastic tote.

When I moved into my current apartment five years ago, my mother was helping me unpack, and we wanted to put the china set in a cupboard above the refrigerator. When we started unpacking, we found many of the pieces had become stained from the ink in the newspaper.

Abby, my mother and I are heartbroken. My great-grandmother collected each piece of this set with Green Stamps during World War II, and I hate that it's now damaged. Do you

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



know of a way I can safely get this staining out of the china?
HEARTBROKEN IN MINNESOTA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: I researched your question at HowToCleanStuff.net and found several suggestions for removing newsprint stains from dishes. One involves using a pencil eraser; another, a cotton ball soaked in rubbing alcohol. However, if you are afraid these methods could further damage your china set, call the nearest art museum and speak with someone in their restoration department. I wish you and your mother good luck.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tiara jewel
4 Lustrous black
7 Laptop connection
11 Beehive State
13 "Evil Woman" gp.
14 Persian Gulf land
15 Play opener
16 Life story
17 Sawbucks
18 Scarlett's Butler
20 Actor Baldwin
22 Espionage org.
24 Plot
28 Drive-in servers
32 Lubricated
33 Jai —
34 Scary cry
36 Sushi wrapper
37 Bee bite
39 Jack Webb series
41 Closet item
43 "Humbly"

DOWN

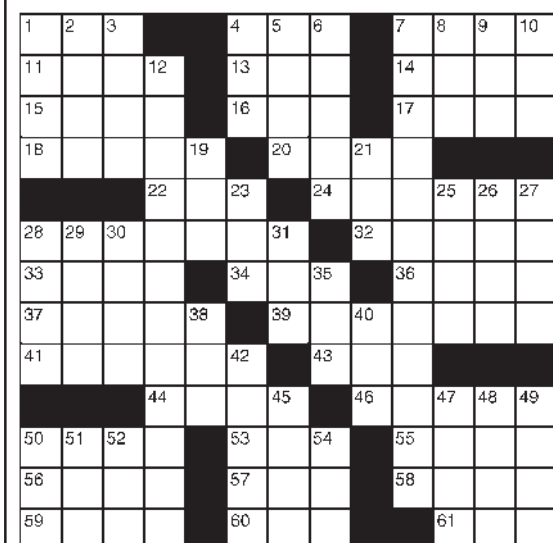
44 School support orgs.
46 Court sport, slangily
50 Little, in La Scala
53 Animal doc
55 Squad
56 Love god
57 Outer (Pref.)
58 Croupier's tool
59 Kind of suit
60 Caustic solution
61 Up-to-date

12 Leave a lasting impression
3 Partner
4 Dubya's brother
5 Director Kazan
6 Workshop array
7 Midnight, in a magical tale
8 Fury
9 Enthusiast
10 Mensa stats
12 Horse's waiting area in front of a saloon
19 Uncle (Sp.)
21 Author Umberto
23 NYPD alert
25 Carolina college
26 Simple
27 Tend texts
28 Moolah
29 Utah ski resort
30 April forecast
31 Lay down the lawn
35 Sphere
38 Retrieve
40 Contented sound
42 "Bolero" composer
45 Hot
47 — incline (tilted)
48 Toll road
49 Leftovers recipe
50 Dispensed candy
51 Spanish gold
52 Dove's call
54 Water tester

Solution time: 26 mins.

T	A	P	E	D	C	D	S	A	M
A	H	E	I	E	O	U	I	E	M
P	A	R	T	B	F	L	U	M	M
P	U	R	I	F	Y	A	T	R	E
O	W	L	A	N	E	U	N	S	E
P	O	E	M	Y	E	A	S	T	
I	E	X	A	C	O	D	E	E	M
K	A	U	A	I	L	Y	C	S	
V	A	D	E	R	D	O	S	S	N
E	S	A	U	D	E	S	I	S	T
N	O	N	P	L	U	S	N	A	I
U	N	C	E	A	I	U	N	F	I
S	C	E	A	L	E	S	K	Y	P

Last Friday's Answer 09/30



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lacey Chabert, 37; Marion Cotillard, 44; Jenna Elfman, 48; Fran Drescher, 62.

Happy Birthday: Face facts, consider what's best for you and make the necessary adjustments. Put everything in order and free up your time. Being free and clear of clutter, past mistakes and situations that leave you in limbo will encourage you to stop standing still and start moving in a direction that will bring you closer to the life you want to live. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 28, 32, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stop procrastinating and initiate the changes you want to make. Question your current relationships and the equality and balance in your life. Look for an opening that excites and challenges you mentally or physically. Romance is encouraged. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep moving forward. Incorporate changes that will keep you up to speed with everything taking place in your field or the latest technology. Listen to the voice of experience and rely on past mistakes when it's time to confront a decision. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take pride in what you do. Don't feel you have to appease others when doing your own thing will bring the highest return. Get along with your peers, but put your responsibilities first. A problematic partnership should be re-evaluated. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't get in someone's way. You'll gain more in quiet pursuit of your own personal goals. Let others do as they please, and enjoy whatever

brings you the most satisfaction. A creative quest or new adventure will change your life. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop procrastinating and start doing. Use your experience, drive and knowledge to persuade others to join your cause. Surround yourself with youthful, fresh minds eager to learn and to be a part of something exciting. Personal growth and romance are featured. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your heart and soul into being successful at whatever you decide to do. If change is required, make it happen and keep moving forward. Refuse to let anyone distract you or lead you astray. Believe in yourself. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change someone makes will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Don't fight the inevitable; embrace whatever comes your way and make the most with what you've got to work with. Personal improvement is favored and will lift your spirits. ★★★

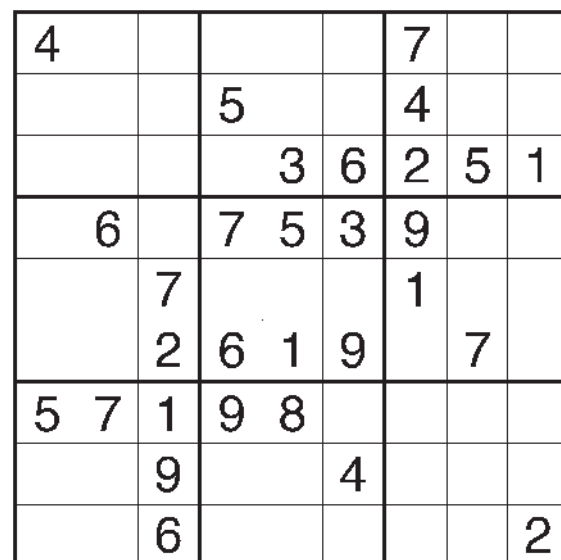
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Impulsive decisions should be avoided. Look for other alternatives before allowing anyone to coax you into participating in something questionable. Past experience should be your guide to what will work best for you. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention. Someone will try to take advantage of your generosity and easygoing attitude. Don't wait until your anger flares up; if you don't want to do something, say no. Do what benefits you, not someone else. Be open regarding your feelings. ★★★

SUDOKU

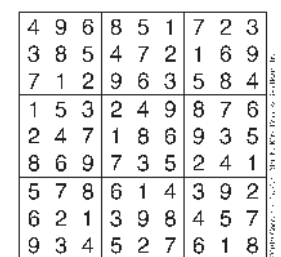
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

9/30

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need a change. Take a different approach to your everyday routine, and you'll find a way to drum up more interest in what you are doing. How you approach life will make a difference in the way others treat you. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A steady pace forward will help you reach your destination. Focus on being and doing your best. Look for a way to improve your current financial, legal or health situation. Don't wait for someone else to decide your fate. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A last-minute change will encourage others to pitch in and help you reach your goal. Keep your plans simple and affordable. If someone suggests something excessive, be quick to discourage such behavior. Take control of the show, and you'll gain respect. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, intelligent and perceptive. You are sensitive and laid-back.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Solution: 5 letters

M C S R N A T U R E E M E H T
Y A L A H P L A Y Y S S O L D
B R N A M Y P Y L W R I T E R
S E T U S O T O R U E W E S T
R V W S S S H H E V R R D H
E I E T E C I T M S G A N T E
M S L N N C R C C O L A Y H P
O E T A C A N I S U L M M G I
S D L I R Y R A P E M A F I L
E E P R T Y L O R T S P K W O
M E O L H P I R E S O R P G
U D E T E S O P M O C E U R U
L R T C A D E N C E Y M E N E
O O L I O N E L U S M A U D D
V L A V E I D E M S T E L S I

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9/30

Ancestry, Apostles, Arthur, Cadence, Classics, Compose, Emily, Epic, Epilogue, Fame, Great, Greed, Imagery, Ireland, Isle, Lionel, Lord, Loss, Lyrics, Manuscripts, Maud, Medieval, Melancholy, Myth, Nature, Play, Poem, Post, Popular, Prose, Revised, Rhythm, Royal, Somersby, Sound, Theme, Thomas, Tithonus, Ulysses, Verse, Victorian, Volume, West, Wight, Writer

Last Friday's Answer: **Album Cover**
To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

L.C. Construction is looking for:
3 General Maintenance
and Repair Worker
Rate: \$8.11/hr - \$8.33/hr.
High School graduate with at least 2 years
experience. Must be able to work flexible
hours. With valid driver's license.
If interested, send resume to
lccconstruction48@gmail.com or mail
to P.O. Box 10001
PMB A-26, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WINSOCK POWER, LLC
1 Maintenance & Repair
Workers, General
\$8.33 per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 234-6001
jamesrthomas67@hotmail.com

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Quality Control Technician** - \$9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Includes workers who collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or callipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate;
• At least 12 months experience;
• Must have knowledge in using measuring tools, such as scales and callipers

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 OK, Tun Koshi Kileman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site—marianaslabornet.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **HVAC Specialist** 8.08 to 8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments. Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution. Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment. Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring. Discuss the heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• Associate's Graduate;
• At least 12 months experience;
• Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 OK, Tun Koshi Kileman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site—marianaslabornet.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FIFTEEN (15) **Molding & Casting Worker** \$7.63 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform duties such as mixing materials, assembling mold parts, filling molds, and stacking molds to mold and cast products and working with concrete, wood and steel to build productions molds/forms.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 1 year experience is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an
Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) **Landscaping & Groundskeeping Worker** \$7.51 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Performs variety of tasks including sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and other related duties.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 3 months experience is required.

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Verlander gets 3,000th K, Astros clinch home field



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—

It ended up being a night of milestones for Justin Verlander and the Houston Astros.

The Astros ace accomplished two strikeout feats—getting his 3,000th in the majors and career-high 300th of the season—and Houston clinched home-field advantage throughout the postseason with a 6-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday night.

“It was a big night for Justin and a great night for our team,” Houston manager AJ Hinch said.

Jose Altuve and Josh Reddick homered to back Verlander (21-6), who became the 18th pitcher to reach 3,000 career punchouts and the 19th since 1900 to reach 300 in a season. Both came against Kole Calhoun.

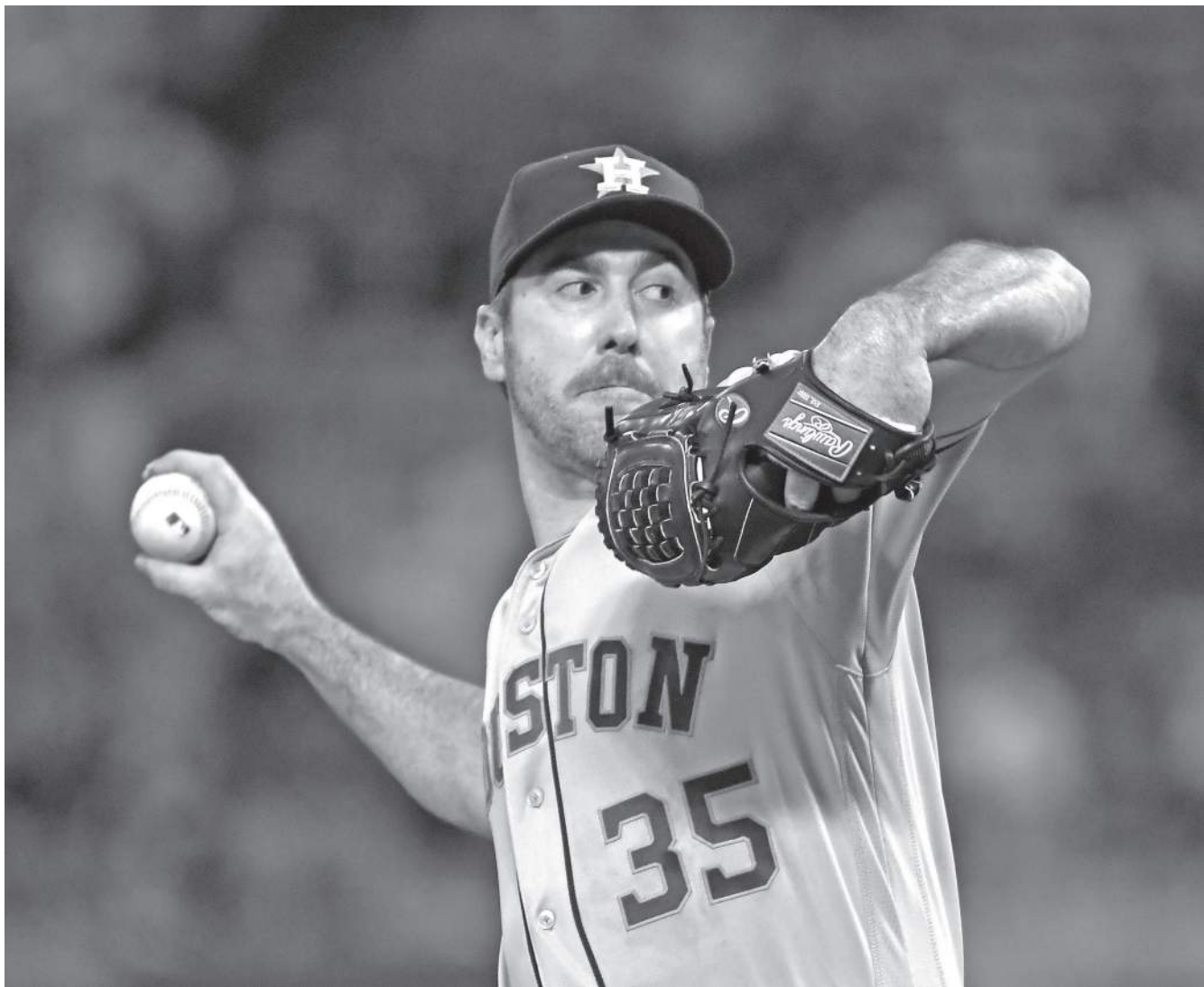
The right-hander—who struck out 12 in six innings while allowing three runs and four hits—came into the game with 2,994 strikeouts. He expected to reach the career milestone, but he thought getting to 300 would be a tougher task against a team that is the third-toughest to strike out in the majors. He’s the second pitcher to reach both marks in the same game, following Arizona’s Randy Johnson in 2000.

“Three thousand was something I wanted to accomplish this season. I honestly wrote off 300. I thought it was going to be a lot to ask for since these guys don’t strike out much,” Verlander said. “I got 3,000 and then to look up after five innings and have 11 strikeouts. Talking to AJ, I knew we were only going to go six innings. I had more emotion for 300 than 3,000 because I didn’t expect to get there in this game. Very thankful to get both accomplishments. It hasn’t set in yet.”

Nationals 10, Indians 7

In Washington, the Nationals assured themselves of hosting the NL wild-card game by holding on to beat the already-eliminated Cleveland with the help of a grand slam in a nine-run second inning from Gerardo Parra.

Nationals Park will be the site of a win-or-go-home game Tuesday night between Washington, which will send three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer to the mound, and either the St. Louis Cardinals or Milwaukee Brewers. One of those clubs will be the NL Central champion; the other will be the league’s second wild-card entry.



Washington starter Patrick Corbin got hit around, giving up six runs in 4 1/3 innings—on three homers. Daniel Hudson (3-0), the fifth of six Washington pitchers, struck out two in a perfect eighth.

Dodgers 2, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched seven sharp innings and Los Angeles posted its 105th win to match the highest total in franchise history.

The NL West champions won their sixth straight and tied the win mark of the 1953 “Boys of Summer” team based in Brooklyn that included Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider and other Hall of Famers.

The Dodgers began the day one game behind Houston for the best record in baseball and one game ahead of the Yankees. Los Angeles will begin the Division Series next Thursday at home against the NL wild-card winner.

Cubs 8, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, the Cardinals’ push for a division title will go down to the final day of the regular season following a loss to Chicago.

Adam Wainwright (14-10) allowed four homers for the first time in his career, but the Cardinals maintained a one-game lead over Milwaukee for the NL Central lead when the Brewers lost 3-2 in 10 innings at Colorado. If the teams are tied after Sunday’s regular season finales, they will play a tiebreaking Game 163 in St. Louis on Monday.

Rockies 3, Brewers 2, 10 innings

In Denver, Milwaukee closer Josh Hader gave up a tying home run with two outs in the ninth inning and the Brewers lost to Colorado in 10 innings, preventing them from catching St. Louis atop the NL Central.

The Brewers will go into Sunday’s regular-season finale one game behind the Cardinals, who lost 8-6 to the Chicago Cubs. If the Cards and Brewers wind up tied, there would be a one-game tiebreaker Monday in St. Louis for the division title.

Athletics 1, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Ramon Laureano hit a solo home run in the third inning and Oakland beat the Mariners to clinch home-field advantage for the American League wild-card game.

The A’s will host the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday night. Tampa Bay lost 4-1 at Toronto earlier Saturday. Oakland has won three of its last four games and is 18-7 in September.

Blue Jays 4, Rays 1

In Toronto, Tampa Bay managed just three hits and lost to the Blue Jays, damaging the Rays’ chances of hosting the AL Wild Card Game.

Matt Duffy homered in the seventh inning for Tampa Bay. Duffy finished with two hits and Tommy Pham singled for the team’s other hit.

The Rays (96-65) secured a postseason berth Friday and began the day tied with Oak-

land in the wild-card race.

Mets 3, Braves 0

In New York, Pete Alonso hit his 53rd home run to break the rookie record Yankees star Aaron Judge set in 2017, and the Mets beat playoff-bound Atlanta.

Alonso has already set franchise records for homers, total bases (347) and extra-base hits (85). He has 120 RBIs and 102 runs, becoming the first Mets rookie to reach triple digits in both categories. The home run was his 11th of September.

Steven Matz (11-10) allowed two hits and five walks in six innings, finishing with a winning record for the first time since his first full season in 2016.

Twins 4, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Minnesota lost third baseman Luis Arraez to an apparent right leg injury in the seventh inning of a win over the Twins.

Arraez collided with first baseman Willians Astudillo while chasing Hunter Dozier’s pop fly at the mound. Astudillo caught the ball and Arraez grabbed the back of his right leg as he tumbled to the ground. Arraez had to be carted off the field.

Orioles 9, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Renato Núñez homered in his second straight game and was one of four Baltimore players to go deep in a win over the Red Sox.

DJ Stewart, Richie Martin and Trey Mancini also hom-

ered for Baltimore, which won its 54th game of the season and has a chance to close out a dismal year with a three-game sweep of the defending World Series champion Red Sox.

Xander Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez homered for the Red Sox, who lost their third straight.

White Sox 7, Tigers 1, Game 1 Tigers 4, White Sox 3, Game 2

In Chicago, pinch-hitter John Hicks connected for a three-run homer in the ninth inning, and Detroit beat Chicago for a doubleheader split.

Detroit was down 2-1 when Ronny Rodriguez reached on an error on shortstop Tim Anderson leading off the ninth. One out later, Travis Demeritte singled to put runners on the corners.

Hicks, batting for catcher Jake Rogers, then drove a 1-2 pitch from Alex Colomé (4-5) deep to left for his 13th homer.

Buck Farmer (6-6) pitched a scoreless eighth and Joe Jiménez got three outs—giving up a pinch-hit solo homer to Yoán Moncada—for his ninth save.

Anderson, who is looking to become the third White Sox player to win a batting title, went 0 for 2 with two walks after sitting out the opener. He is batting .337.

In the first game, Reynaldo López tossed five-hit ball into the ninth inning to lead Chicago.

Eloy Jiménez and Danny Mendick went deep for the

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

White Sox.

Phillies 9, Marlins 3

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper hit one of three Philadelphia home runs, and Zach Eflin pitched 7 2/3 strong innings in a win over Miami.

Cesar Hernandez and Maikel Franco also went deep for Philadelphia, which evened its season record against the Marlins at 9-9. The Phillies (81-80) will need to complete a three-game series sweep in Sunday’s season finale to clinch their first winning record since going 102-60 in 2011.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 5

In Phoenix, Christian Walker hit his first career grand slam and added a solo shot to lead Arizona over San Diego.

Walker continued a breakout season with his 28th and 29th homers.

The Padres lost for the 14th time in 16 games. They had a 5-1 lead in the seventh inning, but Arizona rallied with five runs, including Walker’s grand slam deep into the left-center seats off David Bednar (0-2).

San Diego hit three homers, including solo shots by Luis Urias and Eric Hosmer and a two-run blast by Manny Machado.

Reds 4, Pirates 2, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Jose Iglesias doubled home the winning run in the 12th inning, reliever R.J. Alaniz got his first career hit and victory, and Cincinnati outlasted Pittsburgh.

Iglesias’ two-out liner to center snapped a 2-2 tie and came after the Pirates turned a double play. The hit scored Kyle Farmer, who led off with a single against Alex McRae (0-4).

Alaniz (1-0) singled in Iglesias with an insurance run in his first major league plate appearance and also pitched two scoreless innings.

Rangers 9, Yankees 4

In Arlington, Luis Severino was erratic in his third and final start of the regular season, with four walks and a throwing error over three innings, and the AL East champion New York Yankees lost to Texas.

Rougned Odor had a career-high six RBIs for the Rangers, including his 30th homer that was a grand slam in the sixth to make it 8-1.

Lakers think pieces are in place for title run



EL SEGUNDO, Calif.—Technically, the speech made references about the Lakers winning an NBA championship this season.

And why wouldn't it? The Lakers display 10 of their 11 NBA titles they won in Los Angeles in the office of controlling governor Jeanie Buss, which oversees the team's practice facility. The Lakers have LeBron James and Anthony Davis, whom general manager Rob Pelinka called "two of the best players in the universe." And even if the Lakers downplayed any potential rivalry with the Los Angeles Clippers, there is no way they want them to hold a trophy at their expense.

Nonetheless, Pelinka and Lakers coach Frank Vogel also spent time with their players before media day on Friday stressing a more precise message on what it will take to bring home that hardware next June.

"Our biggest opponent is in the mirror," Pelinka said. "We've got to look at ourselves as a team. We've got to figure out how we come together as 15 players to be the best team we can be."

The Lakers did not exactly figure out how to come together last season.

James missed a combined 27 games last season because of a left groin injury. The Lakers experienced mixed progress and patience with their young roster. The organization had mixed support for Luke Walton, who did not exactly feel the front office gave him enough patience or put him in a position to succeed. Magic Johnson unexpectedly stepped down as the Lakers' president of basketball operations, and later accused Pelinka of backstabbing while characterizing the Lakers as an organization that had too many individual agendas. Before hiring Vogel, the Lakers missed out on their initial targets in Ty Lue and Monty Williams. Lue, who coached James in Cleveland, chafed at the contract offer that included provisions on how he would assemble his coaching staff.

A year later, the Lakers insist they enter this season fielding a lot more synergy and positive vibes.

James has reported feeling fully healthy. Unlike last year's trade deadline, the Lakers acquired Davis from New Orleans for Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Josh Hart and the No. 4 pick. After the Lakers and Walton mutually parted ways, they hired veteran coach Frank Vogel and played a role in having more veteran assistants in Jason Kidd and Lio-



Los Angeles Lakers forwards Kyle Kuzma, left, LeBron James, second from left, Anthony Davis, second from right, and guard Rajon Rondo, right, pose for photos during the NBA basketball team's media day in El Segundo, Calif., Friday, Sept. 27, 2019.

Harden set to pair with Westbrook and chase ring in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden isn't listening to anyone who is worried about how things will work in Houston with the addition of Russell Westbrook.

The Beard is convinced things will be great and believes the move is not only good for the Rockets as they chase their first title since 1995, but that it also is a positive change for Westbrook after being the face of the Oklahoma City Thunder for more than a decade.

"He just comes to entirely different chapter in his life to go out there and just play and doesn't have to go out there

and worry about the pressure of carrying an entire organization," Harden said. "I'm excited for him."

Questions about how these two ball-dominate guards will coexist in Houston have swirled since the Rockets shipped Chris Paul to Oklahoma City this summer in exchange for Westbrook. Only time will tell if the pairing of these two MVPs will be the push this team needs to finally win another championship.

Until then everyone in the organization insists that it will work because Harden and Westbrook want it to.

"If Russ got it going and Russ is on one of those games we've all seen before, guess what I'm going to do? Sit back and watch the show," Harden said leaning back and crossing his arms.

Westbrook also insisted that he isn't the least bit worried about how they'll mesh playing together for the first time since Harden was traded from the Thunder after the 2012 season. Westbrook, an eight-time All-Star, listed all the ways he can impact the game aside from scoring, reeling off all his skills from rebounding to being a leader.

"When it comes to me

and James playing together, who's going to have the ball, who's not going to have the ball, it really doesn't matter," he said. "My goal is to win a championship so whatever it takes to do that that's what I'm going to do."

Coach Mike D'Antoni was quick to point out that not too long ago there were similar concerns about how Harden would adjust to playing with Paul.

"It works itself out," D'Antoni said. "You try not to over-coach it. We need Russell to be Russell. We don't want to change him. He's an MVP."

nel Hollins. Instead of shying away from their front office dynamic, the Lakers appear more comfortable saying publicly that Pelinka, Buss as well as Kurt and Linda Rambis all have a say in major decisions.

"Rob and Kurt and Linda and Jeanie and everybody upstairs did a helluva job this summer. From acquiring AD to acquiring everyone that is a part of this team to bringing back the guys that were free agents last year and bringing them back to the roster, they did a helluva job," James said. "Bringing the coaching staff, handpicking the coaching staff that they did, throughout all the [BS] that was narrated for our franchise

and narrated and going toward Rob and the beautiful people that we have upstairs, they just kept their blinders on and just focused on what they had to help this franchise get as competitive as they can be. They did exactly that and also exceeded that so I think they did a helluva job, and I'm happy to be a Laker."

The Lakers did a hell of a job partly because of James' influence.

Pelinka said that he had "numerous three-way phone calls" and "three-way text messages" with James and Davis this summer. The conversations did not mimic a usual group chat filled with memes and inside jokes. In-

stead, Pelinka often asked James and Davis how they should fill out their roster.

"The front office did a great job of recruiting LeBron and myself, and the decisions to build this team," Davis said. "Every guy that is on this team, me and LeBron had a say so in. I think that's very important when you're going to war with guys every day it would be pretty weird to go to war with a guy that you don't really like. So they made sure they wanted to include us in every decision."

In other words, the Lakers' current roster reflects whom James and Davis wanted as future teammates.

The Lakers signed center

DeMarcus Cousins after he thrived well in New Orleans with Davis and Rajon Rondo. The Lakers signed sharpshooter Danny Green after admittedly lacking enough 3-point shooting depth. The Lakers signed Quinn Cook to bolster their backcourt after James mentored him as a training camp invitee in Cleveland four years ago. When Cousins suffered what is likely a season-ending ACL injury to his left knee, Pelinka said that both James and Davis broached the idea of signing mercurial center Dwight Howard. The Lakers eventually signed him to a non-guaranteed deal after feeling more convinced he would become more accountable af-

ter having turbulent stints with the Lakers (2012-13), Houston (2013-2016), Atlanta (2016-17), Charlotte (2017-18) and Washington (2018-19).

"The approach was never 'you need to go do this,'" Pelinka said. "But the approach is always, 'What do you think about this?' And I think that was represented in the process leading to Dwight Howard. I think it was important that, not only from a front-office perspective, from a coaching perspective from a playing perspective, that everyone was aligned."

While James and Davis became assertive with Pelinka on how to fill out his roster, Pelinka remained just as adamant to Vogel on how he would construct his staff.

Walton chafed at the Lakers' suggestions on having more experience on his coaching staff. Brian Shaw remained the lone assistant with head-coaching experience. Though most NBA teams allow their coaching candidate to assemble their staff as they want, the Lakers persuaded Vogel to hire Kidd as an assistant after impressing them in an interview. Considering Pelinka views Vogel as having "a very collaborative personality," Vogel apparently did not budge.

"The goal of the staff was to have a very experienced staff, and the vision is to have Frank surrounded by other coaches who have been in the head chair," Pelinka said. "Knowing that the level of roster we were building was full of guys with high, high basketball IQ. The more basketball minds we could have as part of the staff, we felt better."

There are other things that leave the Lakers in better spirits.

Unlike in the previous nine NBA appearances, James has not played any competitive basketball since March. During that time, James has reported fully healing his groin. He filmed "Space Jam 2." He literally watched every single playoff game. And he said he trained nonstop to ensure he kept a sleek and powerful frame.

"I would think it's going to have him coming into a season as fresh as he's come into a season in many many years," Vogel said. "And that's good news for us and bad news for the rest of the league."

Unbeaten Cowboys face test against Saints



With the Dallas Cowboys at 3-0, their fans are beginning to see America's Team as a team of destiny.

Hold on: The combined records of the three opponents they vanquished is 1-8.

Sunday night comes a true test for Dallas when it visits New Orleans. Yes, even without Drew Brees (thumb surgery), the Saints are formidable, as they proved in winning at Seattle last weekend.

So we should find out a whole bunch about the teams from Big D and the Big Easy in a juicy prime-time matchup.

"They're playing awfully well right now," Saints coach Sean Payton says of the Cowboys, stressing the offensive output. "We just went through the numbers. Third down, they're No. 1 in the league, defensively they're second in the league."

"Each category — big play, yards per play, they're running it well, the quarterback's playing well. I think that their design, their talent, all of those things. You can't help but notice the quarterback (Dak Prescott) and the success he's having. That's nothing new for him. He's been successful. But, when you see the combination of running backs (Ezekiel Elliott, rookie Tony Pollard) and I think just the right amount of veteran presence from a (Randall) Cobb and a (Jason) Witten, a few of those guys, (Travis) Frederick the center is back, that's very important."

This could be an important game in the overall NFC playoff scheme, particularly if Teddy Bridgewater remains effective at quarterback until Brees is healthy.

The weekend began Thursday night with Philadelphia's 34-27 victory at Green Bay. Nigel Bradham picked off



Aaron Rodgers' pass in the end zone with 20 seconds left, Jordan Howard had his second career three-touchdown game and the Eagles (2-2) ended a two-game losing streak with

Howard finished with 15 carries for 87 yards with two touchdowns rushing and one

receiving, Carson Wentz went 16 for 27 for 160 yards, three scores and no turnovers.

Rodgers was 34 for 53 for 422 yards, two touchdowns and a fumble that set up a short Philadelphia scoring drive. Davante Adams had a career-high 180 yards on 10 catches,

but he wasn't on the field for the Packers (3-1) on the last drive because of a toe injury.

Meanwhile, with the NFC North shaping up as the league's strongest sector, every matchup in the division will be critical, whether in September or December.

AP
In this Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) gets past Miami Dolphins defensive back Walt Aikens (35) and into the end zone for a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas. With the Cowboys at 3-0, their fans are beginning to see America's Team as a team of destiny.

Minnesota has not fared well in Chicago, going 3-15 there since 2000. But the Vikings have split the past four trips, and they come in with the NFL's best run game, led by the healthy and revitalized Dalvin Cook. That's all part of the plan: stout defense and time-consuming effective runs.

"It's part of our head coach's identity. That comes with the old-school rules," Cook said after topping 100 yards rushing for the third straight game in Minnesota's 34-14 victory over Oakland. "We know the type of defense we've got."

They also know what kind of D the Bears have: fierce.

In Buffalo, the numbers say don't expect this "showdown" for the AFC East lead to be close. New England has won five straight and is 33-5 against the Bills since 2000. Tom Brady's 30 career wins against Buffalo are the most by an NFL quarterback against one opponent. And, get this, Brady's 15 wins at the Bills rank fourth among all quarterbacks, four shy of Drew Bledsoe, who had four wins with the Patriots and 14 with the Bills.

New England also is playing some stellar defense, though it must be considered that its opponents are 0-9 this season.

Then again, Buffalo's opposition has a 1-8 mark.

A big day for Frank Gore could push him over 15,000 yards rushing. He needs 88 for

the Bills.

In Detroit, here's comes the Mahomes Maserati to the Motor City as the Chiefs seek their third straight 4-0 start. They have scored 25-plus points in an NFL-record 25 consecutive games, and Patrick Mahomes has an NFL-record 13 300-yard passing games in his first 20 starts.

"He is competitive and he is the leader of that bunch," says coach Andy Reid, who will spend his 100th regular-season game on the Kansas City sideline Sunday. "He's the one that's on the field. He wants certain things out of a play. Then as a player, you have to get those things done. That's where my trust in him and the other coaches' trust in him comes in."

Detroit's defense has come alive and could provide a real test for the 2018 NFL MVP.

In Baltimore, a huge game for Cleveland, which has not lived up to the hype yet, but can claim a tie atop the AFC North with a key road win. Of course, the Browns are 3-19 vs. Baltimore since 2007. Plus, four of their next five are on the road.

"I think it is something that you really have to be conscious of because you are surrounded by an environment where you hear a lot of things, stuff pops up on your phone and stuff is on the TV," quarterback Baker Mayfield says of the criticism being hurled at his team. "It is just people talking. You just have to make a conscious decision to protect your locker room, take care of your guys and block out the negative stuff. When they are patting you on the back, to me that is even worse."

Mayfield has thrown at least one TD pass in all 16 career starts. Only Hall of Famer Kurt Warner (24) had a better opening run. And DE Myles Garrett has six sacks this season.

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Everyone knew exactly where to find Christian Coleman this time.

The man whose whereabouts have left the track and field world scratching its collective head for the past month burst out of the blocks Saturday night and powered to the early lead.

He got stronger from there, blowing away the seven other entrants in the 100-meter world-championship title race and leaving little doubt about who will be chased, and who will do the chasing, in a re-worked track landscape that's now missing Usain Bolt.

Coleman's time, 9.76 seconds, might not have turned many heads, but this should: He beat Justin Gatlin to the line by .13 seconds—an entire body length. That marked the

Coleman easily found: At the front of the pack at worlds

biggest blowout in a 100-meter race at worlds or the Olympics since 2011.

"This is something I'll never take for granted," Coleman said. "The opportunity to come out here and compete. And then to be crowned world champion?"

Doesn't get much better than that.

But Coleman's breakout night had few similarities to any that Bolt dominated over his 10 years of record-setting, reggae-fueled fun.

Even on the races everyone knew he'd win, Bolt brought the entertainmen—and some drama—taking forever to unfurl his 6-foot-5 frame from the blocks, then working the first 50 meters to grab the lead,

then leaving everyone hanging at the end to see what that clock might say.

Coleman, on the other hand, never trailed—the legs on his muscle-bound, 5-9 frame pumping like pistons from start to finish.

The differences on the second evening at the air-conditioned track in Doha weren't restricted to the men's 100.

Earlier, Jamaica earned its first gold medal of the championship. Not in a traditional sprint, but in the long jump, courtesy of Tajay Gayle, who won the country's first world-championship medal in a field event.

The Netherlands, home of speed skating and sprinter

Dafne Schippers, took home its first 10,000-meter gold on the shoes of Ethiopian-born Sifan Hassan, who is making a smooth transition from middle distance to the long races.

And the United States found a surprising, maybe shocking, gold medal in one of the very few spots it hasn't dominated at some point in track and field's long history—women's hammer throw. It came courtesy of a softball player-turned-throwing star named DeAnna Price whose first experience hurling that big piece of metal resulted in her getting bonked in the head.

"I remember literally dropping it and saying, 'I'm never



occurred between June 6, 2018 and April 26, 2019. Three failures in a 12-month span can trigger an anti-doping violation.

But the rules are technical, and there's a difference between not being where you say you're going to be and simply failing to update the app that tells authorities where you can be found. Because of those details, Coleman's first violation was backdated to April 1, 2018—the start of the three-month period at which the original information is supposed to be inputted. That took his first violation out of the 12-month window and compelled USA-DA to drop the case.

It allowed Coleman to race here in Doha.

KONQER Enduro OCR Invitational debuts on Rota



Rota held its first obstacle course race at the Tweaksberry Park/Small Island / West Harbor with the staging of the KONQER Enduro OCR Invitational Championship of Micronesia/Marianas last Sept. 14.

More than 30 brave souls registered online to be considered for the event, but due to the threat of typhoon approaching Japan and other countries, many international applicants had to withdraw for concerns at home or possibility of being grounded on Rota past their intended stay.

This being said, the show must go on rain or shine. The first-ever championship event included a 16K (10-mile) run, 3.8K swim (2.4-mile or 20 200-meter laps) and a 1.8K hike up Wedding Cake, plus 10 manmade obstacles at Small Island.

Although Rota saw its fair share of rain and thunder, strong gusts of wind and rough waters, the Enduro Brigade assembled for its first challenge without fear. The original swim route, which had athletes launching out of West Harbor and into the open water via the channel, had to be suspended at 9am, due to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant in the KONQER Enduro OCR Invitational Championship of Micronesia/Marianas tackles one of the obstacle courses on Rota last Sept. 14.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant climbs a wall, while volunteers look on.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota residents try one of the friendly obstacle courses.

dangerous surf conditions in and around the channel entry/exit points. After a 30-minute intentional delay was called, swimmers were advised of a new alternate route and briefed on the heightened safety procedures. At 9:30am, event timer Jon Cramer officially kicked off the race with a shotgun start, and swimmers entered the water for the swim challenge.

Former Guam Olympian Chris Duenas took an early lead and maintained his dominance against all swimmers. Duenas was part of a multinational three-person team which included runner Shaun Manglona of Saipan and obstacle ninja LD Ogo of Rota.

Duenas's lead gave Team Rise & Grind an early advantage as Team GIANT from Guam, fell victim to the former Olympian's speedy performance. However, Elaine Kwok, the event's only female competitor, did not get shaken. Knowing full well prior to the start that she would be in the water with a former Olympic swimmer, she did not try to out swim Duenas. She focused on her own time and performance knowing that her teammate Ryan Matienzo (one of Guam's fastest road runners) would make up for the lost time during the run challenge. Brian Johnson (Guam /Solo) and Tyce Mister (Saipan/Solo) held their

own in the water trailing only one lap behind Duenas. Both Johnson and Mister were not concerned about Duenas' pace time as they were competing in the solo division. With \$4,000.00 in prize money at stake, all athletes balanced their own safety and performance throughout the day.

Johnson went on to win the solo event, while Team GIANT prevailed in the relay.

"The weather and limited transportation available to Rota were major concerns, but MVA was very proactive and reduced issues related to air transportation, as much as humanly possible. As for the weather, no one can help that! We just got lucky during event day since the skies cleared and the seas calmed down a bit. The community here in Rota were just absolutely wonderful. Nothing goes absolutely perfect, but we KONQER on! I'm grateful to everyone that made this happen," said KONQER Sports chief experience officer Kaz Endo.

KONQER ROTA K12/E1 was presented by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Bank of Guam, and APL and sponsored by IT&E, Go Pro, and Valentino Hotel. (PR)

SAIPAN

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ence of mind to jump in a pass to Basa, as Jack Aranda and Errol Peredo moved in for help defense with De Guzman lagging behind after attempting to steal the ball. The IT&E gamble backfired, as Basa was left open and pulled the trigger even before Peredo and Aranda rushed back to challenge the shot that went in as the final buzzer sounded.

The sorry loss ended

IT&E's winning streak to four, as the team bungled a 13-point lead at the break, 41-28, allowing Saipan Vegas to grab the victory and the solo lead in the 10-team field.

Basa and Coby Santos top-scored in Saipan Vegas' comeback triumph after making 19 points each. Basa delivered five triples, while Santos nailed three shots from beyond the arc and was the consistent scorer for Saipan Vegas. Schmidt added 12, recording all

of them in the second half to anchor Saipan Vegas' rally.

Guiab led IT&E with his 13 markers. Paolo Rafols also had a baker's dozen, but was held to 4 points in the second half. Only Guaio hit more than two field goals in the second half for IT&E.

Meanwhile, The Game rallied from a 20-point deficit in the fourth quarter and moved within a hair after Joe Sablan's triple, but ran out of time in the end, allowing Aqua to escape with the win.

Aqua now has a 2-3 record after ending its skid, while it's The Game's turn to slide down, absorbing its third straight defeat.

Frank Ferrer and Greg Deleon Guerrero fired 20 points apiece in Aqua's victory.

Aqua was already up by double digits at the break, 37-26, and pulled away further in the third when Ferrer and Deleon Guerrero combined for 20, handing their squad a 64-44 advantage.

With the big lead, Aqua played complacent in the fourth canto, while Mak Mintac and Sablan teamed up in bringing The Game back into contention, but fell short in the end.

First Game

Aqua Resort 75—Ferrer 20, Deleon Guerrero 20, Arelano 14, Mendiola 10, Itaas 6, Laborro 5.

The Game 74—Mintac 36, Sablan 16, Bernardo 10, Sanguyo 6, Vivero 4, Del Rosario 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-17, 37-26, 64-44, 75-74.

Second Game

Saipan Vegas 80—P. Basa 19, Santos 19, Schmidt 12, Atan 10, Bondoc 7, Rabauliman 5, Sablan 4, Lizama 4.

IT&E 78—Guiab 13, Rafols 13, Peredo 11, Devero 8, De Guzman 6, Flores 6, Barbo 5, Aranda 4, Rabasto 3, Talanina 3, Demapan 3, Esdreton 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12 28-41 56-61 80-78.

YANG

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ham Zhu Li (22:46) and Saipan Southern High School's Joshua Mendez (23:28).

Agape also had multiple finishers in the Top 10 in the girls U18 with Elizabeth Xu (25:23) in fifth place, and Eunice Xu (26:20), Grace Shi (26:59), Alice Yang (27:01), and Vivian Wu (28:31) in seventh to 10th place, respectively. The Geckos' Anika Sydnor timed in at 24:51 to rank fourth, while Dain Lee, also from SIS, finished sixth after registering 25:33.

In the team division, SIS topped the girls category, while ACS prevailed in the boys race.

Last weekend's event doubled as a qualifier for the Northern Marianas Association and Public School System-organized 2019 All Schools Cross Country Championships.

According to SIS headmas-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SIS headmaster Ron Snyder, left, and Public School System athletic program director Nick Gross, right, join the Top 3 finishers in the boys U18 division of the Gecko 5000 for a group photo in Banzai Cliff last Saturday.

ter Ron Snyder, in addition to the 21 official runners in the Gecko 5000, there were also 76 high school runners that joined the cross country qualifier, and more than 150 students and parents from SIS

participated in the fun run portion of the race. The run started and ended in Banzai Cliff with participants heading to the Last Command Post for the turning point.

OLEAI

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season and if the shutdown will push through and will be longer, they have to resort to other gyms.

"We are still in talks with Agape Christian School and we are also looking at other possible venues like Civic Center and Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium at the TSL Sports Complex," he said. "The reason we came up with the AK Toyota MIBL was to bring up the basketball spirit on the island and ignite the passion back to the players and fans alike."

The Oleai Sports Complex faces a shutdown due to lack of funding, as Northern Marianas Sports Association, which manages and operates the facility, did not receive appropriation from the budget bill for fiscal year 2019-2020 passed by the Legislature last

Thursday. Since 2014, when NMSA was created and assigned to take care of Oleai Sports Complex, the group had been receiving funding from the government.

NMSA has other funding sources, including its income from the lottery program, but money collected from that is allocated for CNMI athletes and officials' participation in off-island tournaments, with the recent one the XVI Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa last summer.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifo said that with the government's decision to zero out the association's funding, they could only operate the sports complex until next month.

"For us, we need to continue because we have ongoing activities. We just opened basketball and volleyball and baseball is still ongoing. If we are to close, who is going to handle the operations? We can

do it temporarily, for free, but we cannot continue without funding," he said.

The Avengers Volleyball League, which is organized by Saipan Volleyball Club will also be affected by the shutdown. Avengers Volleyball League organizer Shawn Davis said the closure would force the league to look elsewhere to conduct their games.

The 2019 Saipan Baseball League just concluded its regular season and will start the semis series next weekend. Matches are played only every Saturday morning, as the lighting system at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield is still broken. The semis will be a best-of-three affair, while the finals will follow a best-of-five format.

SBL will also select players that will represent the CNMI to the 2019 Micronesian Baseball Classic in Guam and the team will need a venue to train



Verlander gets
3,000th K, Astros
clinch home field

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Lakers think
pieces are in place
for title run

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yang, Cabrera top Gecko 5000

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School's Kobe Yang and Saipan International School's Tiana Cabrera ruled the Gecko 5000 held last Saturday in Banzai Cliff.

Yang was the overall top finisher in the 5-kilometer course and topped the boys U18 division after timing in at 19:48. Cabrera led the girls U18 finishers after clocking in at 24:09.

Joining Yang in the Top 3 were SIS' Kuu Nishimura and Ken Song, who recorded 20:09 and 21:06, respectively.



In the girls U18, SIS had a 1-2 finish, as Sofia Osnach came in just few seconds behind Cabrera after posting 24:15. Agape's Emma Pang rounded out the Top 3 following her time of 24:36.

In other results, Agape dominated the Top 10 in the boys U18 with Ray Qi Jie finishing at fourth place with his 21:19 and followed closely by Jason Cao (21:46) and Eason Tang (21:51). Completing the Top 10 were Agape's Arthur Liang (22:18), SIS' Samuel Culp (22:19), Agape's Abra-

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Participants in the Gecko 5000 run along the course in Banzai Cliff last Saturday.

Saipan Vegas, ARC nip foes



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Game's Mak Mintac, second left, runs into the defense of Aqua Resort Club's Arnold Arellano during the third quarter of their match in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Saipan Vegas eked out an 80-78 victory over IT&E off Preston Basa's buzzer-beating triple, giving the former a 5-0 record, while Aqua withstood The Game's late rally for a 75-74 triumph.

Before Basa's dagger, Junar Guiab knocked in a trey that put IT&E on top for the last time, 78-77, with five seconds left in the thrilling game. Saipan Vegas sued for time to map out a make-or-break play and when the match resumed, Aiferson Atan was the designated inbound passer, starting the play on the opposite side of their bench.

After a series of down screens, Douglas Schmidt came out to receive the ball, which he temporarily lost, as IT&E's Jaymark De Guzman reached in from behind and partially tapped the leather away. Fortunately for Saipan Vegas, Schmidt recovered the loose ball and seemed headed for a drive, but eventually swung it over to Basa at the right key in front of their bench. Schmidt had the pres-

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Once Oleai closes, leagues to look for alternate venues

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

When the Oleai Sports Complex shuts down, organizers of ongoing leagues that utilize the facility will have no choice but to look for other venues for their games.

The Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League is one of the competitions being held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and league co-commissioner Clint

Albert can't help, but express sadness with the impending closure of the complex.

"It's sad to hear the news on the closure of the sports complex and its facilities. The closure takes away another sports venue for players, the youth, and our kids. The Ada Gym has tons of history tied up to it," he said.

Albert added that MIBL is nearly halfway through the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Rockies pitcher throws to the batter during an earlier game in the 2019 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Saipan Vegas won the battle of undefeated teams, while Aqua Resort Club snapped its three-game losing streak in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.